

THE TIMES

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Farmers urge £700 million cull of old cattle to win back public confidence in safety of beef

Cabinet may accept call for slaughter

By Philip Webster, Michael Hornsby and Charles Bremner

THE Government was last night seriously considering the destruction of thousands of cattle as the only way to restore confidence in the beef industry as European veterinary officials upheld their plans for a world ban.

For the first time, the Prime Minister accepted that he might have to go beyond the advice of his scientific experts and embrace the National Farmers' Union scheme for the destruction of older cows. That would involve the incineration of more than 800,000 animals a year, mainly from dairy herds, and cost up to £700 million in compensation. Some 16,000 a week would be culled as they reached the end of their working life and their carcasses destroyed rather than used for food. Existing incineration facilities would be unable to handle such a volume, however, and new plant would have to be built.

The NFU put forward its plan - which has the support of the Country Landowners Association and leaders of the food industry - as farmers appeared to accept that there was no chance of controlling the catastrophe by reassuring consumers. But Tory MPs were privately critical yesterday, saying that one day the Government was proposing a cull, the next suggesting it would do nothing more, and then apparently reviving the slaughter option.

John Major said that the proposal would be carefully examined, but he blamed Labour for fanning public hysteria and made plain that if the cattle were killed it would be because the Government had been forced to accept that confidence could not be restored by the "sensible practical" measures that had been taken.

In a vicious Commons clash with Tony Blair, he said that Mr Blair, Harriet Harman and Paddy Ashdown were to blame for destroying confidence after the Labour leader

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had accused the Government of "mind-boggling incompetence" in handling the crisis.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was also given a rough ride over the Government's approach yesterday when mothers called a BBC Radio phone-in to accuse him of "appalling" complacency and a "frightening lack of concern" for public safety.

The selective slaughter scheme put to Mr Major, Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown by the NFU president David Nash yesterday is the option that would be the least disruptive to farmers while still being radical enough to stand a chance of impressing consumers and opinion abroad.

It is estimated that up to 16,000 cows are slaughtered for food every week, most of them dairy cows up to seven years old. The carcasses are mainly used to make cheaper meat products and have also been a big element in the export trade with France.

Older dairy cows are the most likely to have eaten the scrapie-infected feed that is thought to have caused "mad cow" disease before it was banned in 1988.

Sir David said: "The events of the past week show that we have gone beyond the stage of relying solely on science. The Government must take immediate action because the steps announced so far have failed to restore confidence among consumers and the entire food chain."

Ian Gardiner, the NFU's director of policy, said: "We would be looking for compensation of around £800 an animal. We recognise that there would be real problems

in disposing of this many animals. We have no market at all for that beef now because it is not on the menu anywhere and not in shops."

Ewen Cameron, the dairy farming president of the CLA, said: "I really do believe this would help to put the beef industry back on its feet because we would be removing any risk of BSE getting into the food chain. Most beef animals are slaughtered at no more than two years and no animal that young has ever developed BSE."

If the Government goes for the scheme, it will have to decide the minimum age of cows to be taken out of the food chain, whether to distinguish between BSE-free herds and others, and whether there might be a limited all-herd slaughter policy for the most affected herds.

There would also probably be an argument over the level of compensation. The NFU's figure of £800 per animal is about £300 more than the average market price for old cows before the crisis broke last week.

The need for action has become more urgent as the European Commission is almost certain to impose a world ban on British beef exports today. The Commission's veterinary committee yesterday rebuffed British efforts to avert the move, which officials described as a pointless exercise undertaken at Mr Major's insistence.

One French official said: "Why doesn't this fellow deal with the problem he's got instead of trying to unload the blame on Europe. Others said that Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, and Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, had had nothing new to say.

The ban will be formally announced after a vote among commissioners. The result is a foregone conclusion as only Sir Leon Brittan and possibly Neil Kinnock are likely to oppose the embargo.



Stephen Dorrell yesterday with cow motif cards from staff for his 44th birthday on Monday. The Health Secretary tells *The Times* today of the events that led to a government decision "to trust the people, give them the facts and leave them to draw mature conclusions". Interview, page 10

Mafia may have sold herd infected with BSE

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN complacency over mad cow disease turned to alarm yesterday as another case of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease surfaced and there were fears that the Mafia may have sold infected beef.

The Government sent 5,000 health inspectors to border points and processing plants to look for signs of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in meat and live cattle.

Police impounded British beef in Sardinia and Turin, and gave a warning that smugglers with possible Mafia links were trading British beef under "false health certificates" from Ireland.

Italy was one of the last EU countries to ban British beef last week. The press and media have bombarded Italians with reassuring statements from the authorities and experts, with the Ministry of Health stating repeatedly that there was "no cause for alarm". The Ministry of Agriculture said that only "negligible quantities" of beef were imported from Britain, and

there was "no risk to the Italian consumer".

But it emerged yesterday that Francesco Melillo, 57, from Avellino, near Naples, had died in January from CJD after visiting friends on Italy's Adriatic coast. The death follows two publicly acknowledged cases of BSE in Sicily.

The *Corriere della Sera* newspaper, reporting growing

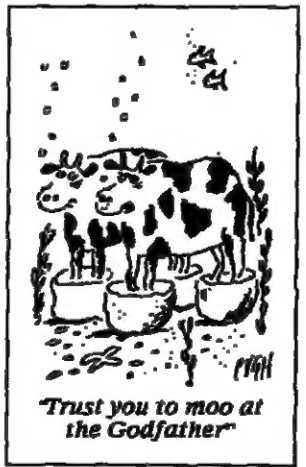
public "doubts and anxieties" over meat, milk and cheese products, said that Italy had been "under-dramatising" the crisis.

In Sicily, concern rose after it was revealed that most of a herd in which BSE had been discovered had been spirited away by the Mafia and may have been slaughtered for food.

Sources said that two cows suffering from BSE had been killed last year at Castellammare del Golfo, on the west coast of the island, on a farm belonging to Agostino Lentini.

He is now in prison for alleged Mafia activities. When inspectors went to his farm, the remaining cattle had disappeared.

"There is a real risk of contamination," said a veterinary surgeon at the Institute for Animal Diseases in Palermo. "We have to step up controls, since many Sicilian farmers are not exactly keen to reveal the origin of their livestock."



Birds Eye stops making burgers

BIRDS EYE has stopped making beefburgers at its factory in Lowestoft, Suffolk, and moved the 1,000 workers to other production lines. But the frozen food company said that it would continue to sell its full range of products.

At the same time, the boycott of beef products grew as Virgin Atlantic Airways removed beef from its in-flight menus. British Airways also suspended beef from its children's menu and will no longer offer it as a single choice.

Even the Ministry of Defence is advising military caterers that they should offer an alternative in barracks and Naafis.

Cattle markets throughout Britain were almost empty again yesterday as farmers stayed at home and beef prices continued to plunge. The number of cattle being traded was no more than 2 per cent of the level last Tuesday.

Most abattoirs are refusing to accept stock because they cannot find any markets for the carcasses and farmers are holding their cattle back in the hope that demand for beef may recover.

In supermarkets, sales of turkey, pork, lamb and chicken were forging ahead.

John Snagge dies aged 91

John Snagge, the voice of boat race radio commentaries for almost 50 years, has died aged 91. The broadcaster achieved fame during the Second World War when the BBC decided that its announcers should identify themselves to the public to avoid confusion with propaganda broadcasts from Germany.

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The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



British charity worker is kidnapped in Cambodia

By Tom Walker, Leyla Linton and Carol Midgley

CHRISTOPHER HOWES, a British charity worker kidnapped at gunpoint in north-west Cambodia, is believed to have been seized by a break-away Khmer Rouge faction.

Mr Howes, 36, was taken hostage with up to 27 other volunteers as he supervised mine clearing near Siem Reap. By last night he and his Cambodian interpreter were the only two who had not escaped or been released.

The kidnappers drove their captives north into Varin district, towards the Thai border. Radio messages intercepted by the United Nations World Food Programme suggested that a ransom of £260 was being demanded for each of the Cambodian hostages then still held.

As Mr Howes's family awaited news at their home in Bristol last night, they were aware that all the Britons kidnapped by the Khmer

Rouge in the past two years had been killed. Dominic Chappell, Tina Dominy and Mark Slater were all executed by the group in two separate incidents in 1994, along with two Australians and a Frenchman. The only foreigner to survive a Khmer Rouge kidnapping in the past two years is Melissa Himes, who worked for an American group.

Last night the Cambodian Government was negotiating for the release of Mr Howes and his assistant, Ieng Mouly, a Cambodian official, said.



that 12 hostages had escaped and ten had been released. Mr Howes, who is unmarried, had been working as a mines specialist for the United Kingdom-based Mines Advisory Group, a non-political organisation that has been active in Cambodia since 1992. He helped to train civilians in the detection and destruction of anti-personnel mines and had previously worked in Northern Iraq.

Archie McCarron, the group's programme director for Cambodia, said in Phnomh Penh, the capital, last night: "It seems they were taken by a roving band of deserters. We don't know anything about who they are."

In Britain, Roger Briotes, director of the charity, said: "We are very concerned for the welfare of our staff and are hopeful of an early release. We would like to affirm that our de-mining operation in Cambodia will continue."

Exam answers are put on Internet

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

CYBER cheating came to Britain yesterday when up to 20,000 candidates for Scotland's most challenging school mathematics examination discovered that they could read some answers on the Internet.

An unknown person has already solved problems accounting for 10 per cent of the marks in the Higher Grade examination, which is used for university entrance, and posted the answers on the global computer network. The solutions are for a coursework section, which allows pupils ten days to investigate topics away from the pressure of the examination hall.

The Scottish Examination Board last night resisted pressure to scrap the questions, which were unpopular with critics who claimed that parents did much of the work.

A board spokesman insisted that the answers alone would not be enough to satisfy examiners. But teachers' leaders said that inaction would

amount to a "cheat's charter for the rich". Those with computers would enjoy a clear advantage over colleagues from poorer homes.

Fred Forrester, deputy general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland, said: "We will never know how many pupils read the answers. Nobody wants to get rid of these practical and investigative elements, but we are being overtaken by new technology and I do not see any alternative to awarding all this year's marks for the conventional examination."

The board said project work had been developed to test skills that could not be demonstrated in a traditional examination. "Each candidate has to produce a solution to the investigation under supervised conditions without the use of any notes, so candidates who have not properly understood the work involved would be unable to produce a satisfactory answer."

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Kind
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ter of four million cattle for the achievement of a few extra points in the opinion poll dismays them.

Mr Blair represents Sedgfield. Sheep graze there. Sheep are susceptible to scrapie. Blair has been photographed in a Barbour jacket patting cows elsewhere in Britain. It is just possible that a link can be established between Mr Blair personally and the outbreak of mad cow disease. Short of this (if Tories fear) all is lost.

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

Richard intends to make public.

However, material provided by the intelligence services to the inquiry will not be published. Sir Richard's favoured form of publication is CD-Rom, although this still requires the permission of Parliament. The documents will be presented to the House of Commons, as was the Scott report. But MPs will need to agree to accept them in electronic, rather than a more traditional, format.

The five volumes of the Scott report quote from many of the papers to be published and the release of the full documents is unlikely to unearth fresh areas of controversy. But the docu-

an earlier exchange with Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, over what the judge saw as Whitehall procrastination over supplying documents that he had requested.

After publication of the background documents in May, Sir Richard's team of about a dozen officials will be dispersed. Most will return to

Demands for a Freedom of Information Act have grown in recent months after the Scott report revealed the extent of the culture of secrecy in Whitehall.



By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

which would capture people's attention. We did a lot of research about how to break through barriers and this is the one that seemed to work."

But Mr Steel said only a handful of civil servants looked like Hector. "Our workforce, especially those in the front line, have to be dynamic in their approach."

The Inland Revenue said Hector was fast becoming a heroic figure. "So far a quarter of a million people have phoned our hotline," said a spokeswoman. But she conceded that Hector was not an accurate reflection of most staff. "No, I don't wear a bowler hat and a pin-striped suit," she said.

Amie Adam, left, shot in the thigh when Thomas Hamilton opened fire on her class at Dunblane Primary School two weeks ago today, killing 16 of her classmates, has left Yorkhill hospital in Glasgow. Amy Hutchison and Mark Mullan remain in hospital. Eirwen Bengough, the school's GP, appeals to doctors in this month's *BMA News Review* not to act as referees for handgun licence applications.

James Ginley, 41, who spent 14 years on the run in the United States, was jailed for seven years by the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday for his part in a planned cross-border bomb attack in 1981. Ginley, from Monaghan town, surrendered to police and was arrested on a warrant issued in 1982. He admitted possessing an explosive substance at Shankill, Co Monaghan on October 25, 1981.

The British Olympic Association has launched a charity scratchcard with a top prize of £100,000 in an attempt to raise £1 million to help to fund British athletes taking part in this year's games in Atlanta. The association will receive 20p from each £1 card sold. The card is being operated by Scratch & Win, which has run ten scratchcards for leading charities, including the Royal British Legion.

BY A STAFF REPORTER

ONE of Britain's biggest engineering companies claimed in the Court of Appeal yesterday that it was not liable to pay compensation to people who developed cancer from breathing asbestos dust.

T&N is trying to overturn a High Court judge's decision in October last year that the firm must pay damages to two people who as children played in the drifts of white dust which blanketed the roads around their homes. It was the first time that a court had awarded compensation for asbestos claims made by anyone other than those working in a

William Woodward, QC, for T&N, said one of the victims, Arthur Margerson, who died in 1974, had been at the factory, had played around the facility. JW Roberts in Armley, Leeds, for eight years before the dangers were realised and factory owners became liable to protect people from the risks.

Mr Woodward said that in the Leeds judgment, Mr Justice Holland had failed to define where the area of risk lay outside the factory walls.

Evelyn Margerson, 70, was awarded £50,000 for the death five years ago of her husband.

June Hancock, 60, who was awarded £65,000, is also suffering from the same cancer of the chest lining, was in court yesterday to hear the company's attempt to overturn the ruling, which became a test case for up to 40 other cases in the Armley area and possibly 500 nationally.

She began her action soon after her mother died from the same illness and has been warned by doctors she has only months to live.

T&N, which was called Turner and Newall until 1987, has already paid £250 million worldwide to people directly affected by asbestosis and other related diseases. Mrs Hancock played among the dust that drifted from JW Roberts, a factory making insulating mattresses for boilers, in the late 1930s and 1940s.

The hearing continues.

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of small investors encouraged to buy into the giant privatisations of the 1980s have been sidelined in favour of more sophisticated shareholders in the latest government sell-off.

The glitzy hype of the British Gas, electricity and water industry sales have been replaced by grey images of tunnels, rail lines, bridges and news items in television and newspaper advertisements for Railtrack, which began running last night.

The £5 million campaign, the cheapest privatisation advertising project to date, has been kept low-key because of the acute political sensitivity of rail privatisation and because Government advisers believe that small investors who bought privatisation shares in the 1980s will not be attracted

the sale.

Instead, they are relying on more sophisticated private investors and Britain's one million-strong fraternity of train enthusiasts.

The campaign, devised by the agency WCRS, features slogans such as "From the longest to the spectacular. Railtrack owns Britain's rail bridges" and "From the long to the short, Railtrack owns Britain's rail tunnels" superimposed on trainless railway landscapes.

Other recent privatisation campaigns have relied on "characters" such as Inspector Muroso, played by Mel Smith, who helped sell the third tranche of British Telecom shares. Volcanoes, earthquakes and lightning storms accompanied the advertisements for last year's sale of shares in the electricity generators.

■ Paddy Ashdown stepped up the pressure on Labour yesterday over its pledge to restore Railtrack to public ownership by committing the Liberal Democrats to taking a 51 per cent controlling stake in the company.

Sell-off timetable, page 25

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Killer 'knifed and shot Britons in Australian forest'

By ROGER MAYNARD
in Sydney

A CAVALRY sword, probably used to decapitate one of his victims, was among a mass of evidence linking an Australian roadworker to the murders of seven tourists, a court in Sydney was told yesterday.

On the second day of the "backpacker trial" of 51-year-old Ivan Milat for the murders of two Britons, three Germans and an Australian couple, a jury was told that they were "killings for killing's sake". Earlier the prosecution raised the possibility that more than one person might have been involved in the attacks.

The young victims were killed in a forest outside Sydney, using rifles and a large knife, Mark Tedeschi, QC, for the prosecution, said. He said a leather leash and other restraints were found near by and with some of the bodies, buried in makeshift graves in the forest.

As Mr Milat took notes, Mr Tedeschi added: "The seven backpackers were killed in ferocious and sustained attacks in which vastly more force was used than necessary to kill." Six of the backpackers were taken in pairs. Mr Tedeschi said the remains of two German tourists were found near what appeared to have been a "shooting gallery" in the forest where restraints and spent ammunition littered the ground.

One of them, Anja Habschied, had been decapitated, possibly with the cavalry sword found in the home of Mr Milat's mother, Mr Tedeschi said. Habschied's



Milat may have used sword to chop off head

head, apparently severed from behind, was never found.

"The Crown does not know how many persons there were in the forest at the time of the alleged murders," he said, adding that the evidence linked Mr Milat with all seven backpackers. Mr Milat has denied murdering Joanne Walters, 22, from Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan, and Caroline Clarke, 21, from Surrey; Germans Miss Habschied, 20, Gabor Neugebauer, 21, and Simone Schmidt, 21; and Australians James Gibson and Deborah Everist, both 19, between September 1989 and November 1992.

Their bodies were unearthed from shallow bush graves in the Belanglo State Forest, near Sydney. Post-mortem examinations showed all were killed using a gun or knife, Mr Tedeschi said.

The evidence also suggested sexual interference, he said, citing slashed clothing, and underwear and jeans which had been removed. Mr Milat was arrested in May 1994 at

his home on the outskirts of Sydney where police found camping equipment belonging to the victims as well as parts of a rifle that fired ammunition found at the scenes of three killings, he added.

A rifle bolt found hidden in a wall cavity in the house was used at the scene of Miss Clarke's murder and near where the bodies of the Germans were dumped, he said. Blood-stained sash cord was also found in the garage and genetically tested against blood samples provided by Miss Clarke's parents.

Mr Tedeschi listed for more than an hour camping and personal equipment owned by the victims and found by police among the defendant's belongings. It included a photograph of his girlfriend, Chantelle Hughes, wearing a green and white Benetton top which matched one worn by Miss Clarke.

Mr Tedeschi said that such had been the ferocity of the stabbing attack on Miss Walters that the knife cut several of her vertebrae and her spinal cord, which would have left her paralysed. A piece of fabric used to gag her was still tied around her head and her underwear was missing. Miss Clarke had ten bullet wounds to the head and stab wounds to the back and chest.

Mr Milat has also denied attempting to abduct Paul Onions, a British tourist, who allegedly escaped from him after he gave him a lift in January 1990 by throwing himself in front of an oncoming vehicle to summon help. The case continues.



Before and after: the Duchess of York in typical exuberant pose and showing off her new sophisticated image

New-look Duchess presents bold face

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Duchess of York has posed for a series of glamorous photographs which claim to show that she has adopted a new look to accompany a new lifestyle.

The photographs, published by *Hello!*, were taken during a seven-hour fashion shoot at a Paris hotel in January. The deal with the magazine was arranged by the Duchess's friend, Princess Marie Esmeralda of Belgium, who is co-owner of a photographic agency called Press Impact Italia.

According to the magazine text, the Duchess has created a new look which combines "appealing fragility" with "ob-

vious determination". A spokeswoman for the Duchess declined to say whether she had been paid for the photographs or would be donating any of the money to charity.

Earlier this year Buckingham Palace made it clear that the Queen was no longer prepared to offer financial support to her daughter-in-law, who had a bank overdraft of at least £1 million.

"The deal was put together by Princess Esmeralda," the Duchess's spokeswoman said. "It is still being discussed where the money is going. The Duchess has always given generously to charity in the past."

The Duchess's new lifestyle includes

workouts five days a week with her personal trainer, which prepared her for a gruelling desert horse race in Qatar last week. "The Duchess is now incredibly fit. She has lost a considerable amount of weight. We think the photographs look stunning," the spokeswoman said.

The fashion photographer Andre Rau took the shots of the Duchess, who is shown in black trouser suits by Yves Saint Laurent. Mr Rau told the magazine: "She's really incredible. I hardly needed to tell her what to do."

"At first I thought she might be a bit aloof because of her title, but she wasn't like that at all. In no time at all, we were all calling her Sarah."

Blunders at Scrubs helped jailbreak

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SERIES of security blunders surrounded the escape of two convicted murderers from Wormwood Scrubs, the first inmates to escape since the spy George Blake fled from the west London jail 27 years ago. A court was told yesterday.

An 18th ladder used to scale the perimeter wall had been left out and the inmates who escaped had not had their movements properly logged. Knightsbridge Crown Court was told.

In addition, concerns had been raised about a security camera "blind spot" where a blow torch was used to cut a hole in the inner security fence. John Geeson, the prison's security governor, also said he suspected a maintenance man who had been in charge of the prisoners had helped them to get away.

Mr Geeson was giving evidence on the first day of the trial of Anthony Coughtry, 23, and Gary Johns, 30. They deny false imprisonment but admit escaping last July.

The pair, who were serving life, and a third murderer had been detained by Michael Goldsmith, the maintenance man, to paint a workshop floor next to the perimeter wall. Nicola Merrick, for the prosecution, said the two men overpowered Mr Goldsmith, tied him to an armchair and placed a pillowcase over his head. The third prisoner was tied up after he made it clear he wanted nothing to do with the escape. The trial continues.

Colleague guilty of assault for harassing woman

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who harassed a female colleague with letters and telephone calls for two years was found guilty of assault yesterday. Gaetano Constanza was convicted in spite of never attacking the woman with whom he had become infatuated after speaking on the telephone.

It is the second successful conviction of a stalker under existing criminal law within a month. Stalking is not an offence at present, but both the Government and the Labour Party are considering making it a specific crime.

Yesterday Louise Wilson, 23, was in the public gallery at Luton Crown Court as Judge Moss told Constanza that his offence was "exceedingly serious". Constanza was remanded in custody while psychiatric reports are prepared and warned that he faced a "lengthy custodial sentence".

Miss Wilson, of Round Green in Luton, said afterwards: "I am determined to get my life back to normal. I don't want to be a victim any longer, and now this case is over I can start to get my confidence back to do the things I used to enjoy."

Constanza, 31, from Luton, pleaded not guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm between 1993 and last year. The prosecution claimed his behaviour amounted to an assault by causing Miss Wilson to become ill. She was

treated by her doctor for constant sickness and weight loss and when she was referred to a psychiatrist was diagnosed as being clinically depressed.

He bombarded her with 800 letters, telephone calls and bouquets of flowers after they spoke on the telephone at Vauxhall Motors, where they both worked. Constanza, an Italian, wanted to go out with Miss Wilson.

She told the jury that he had invaded her life with letters, silent telephone calls and visits to her home. As his obsession increased she became afraid to leave her home, stopped playing sport, attending a combat club and walking to the shops because he would be watching her movements.

The judge said the jury had to be satisfied that when Constanza carried out his campaign he intended to harm or was so reckless that he ignored the risk that Miss Wilson, a computer operator, could suffer mentally. They also had to agree that his actions directly caused her clinical depression as opposed to simple anxiety and stress.

Constanza admitted he had pursued Miss Wilson in the hope that she would go out with him. "I did not understand her reaction to me, I was acting in a decent manner. I let my emotions get away with me," he told the court.

Wildlife workers call hunt to kill fox

By EMMA WILKINS

A WILDLIFE conservation trust was forced to seek help from a local hunt after a fox killed 25 birds at a waterfowl gardens.

The animal had made repeated raids on the Peakirk Waterfowl Gardens near Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, killing birds valued at £3,000 over six weeks. They included a rare Hawaiian goose and a flamingo. Bromley Clarke, the manager, was forced to overcome moral objections and called in the Fitzwilliam Hunt, which found and killed the fox on Sunday.

The waterfowl gardens were founded in 1957 by Sir Peter Scott and are home to 800 birds from 140 species. The Hawaiian goose was one of the most popular birds at the centre, which receives 50,000 visitors a year.

Mr Clarke said: "We are in the conservation business but we were at our wit's end to know what to do with this fox. We had tried every other humane way to get rid of it."

The Fitzwilliam Hunt did not turn out in costume but one of the joint masters with half a dozen hounds tracked the fox to its lair near the edge of the gardens.

One of Britain's premier trout fishing waters, Blagdon Lake near Bristol, was closed after 250 fish were found dead. Pollution is being investigated as a possible cause.

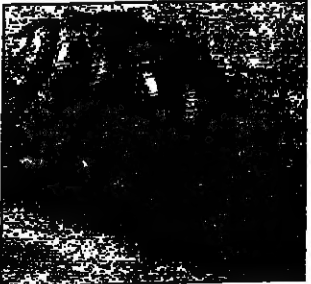
Miniature snail slows pace of Newbury bypass work

By TIM JONES

WORK on part of the Newbury bypass could be further delayed while conservation experts decide what to do with Desmoulin's Whorl, a snail no bigger than a breadcrumb.

Lawyers acting for Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, gave an undertaking in the High Court yesterday that they would consult English Nature about the endangered snail before moving in to clear the Rickety Bridge campsite. Demonstrators said that the snail study could delay work by weeks, although this was denied by Alan Odey, the Highways Agency project engineer.

The 2mm-long snail, *Verdugo mouliniana*, is protected under the European Habitat Directive, which requires governments to protect the best sites as special areas of conservation. Desmoulin's



Desmoulin's Whorl is only two millimetres long

Whorl may have been living in the area since the last Ice Age. Dr Martin Welling, who surveyed the site for Friends of the Earth, said the population was "the densest I have seen for more than 20 years".

Demonstrators opposing the nine-mile, £100 million bypass had hoped that the Government would be forced to designate the site as a special area of conservation.

Mr Justice Sedley said that the undertaking by the De-

partment of Transport meant that it would discuss with English Nature the method and clearance of the site. The consultation would have the intention of ensuring that the snail population was not disturbed.

The judge dismissed the appeal by demonstrators that they had a right to be on the land to defend the snail because of the Government's failure to pass conservation orders.

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MoD to buy ro-ro ferries for rapid deployment force

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO roll-on, roll-off ferries are to be bought for the Armed Forces as part of a £150 million package to boost rapid deployment capability. Michael Purtillo announced yesterday that the ferries, with more light artillery guns and advanced communications, will be available for the new joint rapid deployment force, which will be operational in August.

Next week the Defence Secretary will open a permanent joint forces headquarters at Northwood, north-west London, which will be responsible for planning and running deployments of British forces in conflicts or peacekeeping missions.

The 300-man tri-service centre, to be commanded by Lieutenant-General Christopher Wallace, will be responsible for dispatching the rapid deployment force, a brigade-sized unit of about 5,000 soldiers, based on 3 Commando Brigade and 5 Airborne Brigade.

The force will be supported by RAF aircraft and helicopters, Army attack helicopters, specialist amphibious shipping and other units selected for specific missions. An armoured battalion group and a mechanised infantry group will also be selected for possible deployment with the new force.

The new ferries are seen as vital

The SAS is to be given a new home at a disused RAF base after the planned closure of its headquarters in the suburbs of Hereford. The regiment has been hunting for premises for some time because Stirling Lines, its base for about 40 years, has limited space for training. Yesterday it was confirmed that the elite regiment would move to Credenhill, a disused RAF base a few miles away.

for moving men and equipment rapidly to trouble spots without having to charter available merchant vessels. A senior defence source said: "What we need is assured availability. If you are to move something like mechanised infantry quickly, it is critically important to have a fundamental element of your sealift on tap."

As part of the drive for flexibility

and joint forces operations, the RAF is planning to link up with the Royal Navy in a new strategy that will see air force ground-attack Harriers deployed side-by-side with Sea Harriers on board aircraft carriers. In training trials this month, two Harrier GR7s from RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire have been flying from the carrier HMS Illustrious in joint missions with the Navy's FA2

Sea Harriers from 801 Squadron. Further trials are planned later this year when RAF Harriers will carry out nighttime flights from either HMS Illustrious or HMS Invincible.

Captain Jonathan Band, commander of HMS Illustrious, told the Navy's newspaper, Navy News: "The combination of the two aircraft employed from the sea in a power projection role is something that we need. It would give us the option of putting, say, six GR7s on board with six to eight Sea Harriers which would give us a much greater weight of attack or presence."

Under the new strategy which has yet to be formally approved, the RAF Harriers would stay with their

own squadrons but would practise their new designated role each year.

Navy sources said this month's trials were aimed at ensuring that the new Harrier GR7, which has bigger wings than its predecessor, the GR5, would be capable of sharing the flight deck with the Navy's Sea Harriers. During the trials, the two different types of Harrier conducted joint bombing exercises on ranges ashore and flew against jets from the American aircraft carrier, USS George Washington.

As part of the new flexible policy between the Services, Army Lynx helicopters have also been operating from warships off Portland in training exercises.

Army may let women join battle tank crews

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN may serve in future battle tank crews after an all-party Commons committee approved expanding their role in the Army.

Women already fly fighter jets and helicopters and "could be engaged in offensive action", the MPs on the Defence Committee said in a report on manning and recruitment. At present only 47 per cent of all posts in the Army were open to women, the report said. Army chiefs were reviewing their possible role in combat units and decisions were due this summer.

Research was also being carried out by the defence evaluation and research agency to develop a series of physical fitness standards and tests as part of an overall study of women's role.

The committee said it welcomed the reviews and the prospect of wider opportunities for women in the Army. "Deployment of women in tanks and infantry in the direct contact battle will be seen by some as a major step. For others it is a natural progression," the report said.

The MPs said that for some years women in all three services had been working in positions of danger "where they can be involved in combat, whether in support of the frontline, at sea in warships or at RAF bases". They recommended that before any decision was made by ministers to deploy women in armoured regiments and infantry, "the legal and social issues involved should be debated in the House".

The report also found that one reason for the manpower shortage in the Army was the relatively high number of new soldiers who failed to complete their training. The drop-out rate among women was significantly higher than among men. Lack of fitness was another factor.

The MPs said the Army was short of 4,711 soldiers. While the overall size of the Army was still in line with plans, it would go into "deficit manning" this year and next. That compared with the Royal Navy and RAF, both of which had been able to meet their recruitment targets.

Blunder silences Queen's tribute to Polish Jews

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN WARSAW

A COMPUTER error prevented the Queen paying tribute yesterday to the wartime bravery of Polish Jews.

A packed special session of the Polish parliament listened appreciatively as the Queen described the courage of Polish forces during the Second World War. According to the text distributed in advance she should then have said: "Nor can we ever forget the suffering of the Polish people under Nazi occupation, nor the terrible fate of Polish Jews."

But she went straight on to her next paragraph, recalling that postwar liberty for Poland had been delayed by the Communist era.

The blunder was particularly unfortunate because the Queen was criticised by some British Jews last week for not including a visit to Auschwitz in her historic state visit to Poland. A visit to a Holocaust memorial in central Warsaw was hurriedly added to her programme.

A Palace spokesman said last night: "The omission of one sentence in the speech was absolutely unintentional. The computer printing out the Queen's copy left it off the bottom of the page. It is entirely our fault, and we very much regret it."

In the remainder of her speech, the Queen backed

Poland's ambition to join Western institutions, including the European Union and Nato. In a clear message to Russia, which has voiced objections to the eastward expansion of Western European defence, she said: "We strongly support the enlargement of the European Union and Nato, we are in sympathy with your aim to join these bodies, and we are determined that that aim cannot be subject to a veto by any other country. Poland needs Europe, but Europe also needs Poland."

Later the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh entertained Lech Walesa to tea in the Belvedere Palace where they are staying. Poland's former President was their guest at Buckingham Palace and Windsor in 1991. Mr Walesa was on the guest list for the Queen's official lunch for Polish dignitaries in Warsaw's Bristol Hotel yesterday, but he declined because President Kwasniewski, who defeated him in elections last November, was attending.

After the 25-minute private meeting, Mr Walesa said: "The Queen and I are like old friends; we go back a long time. She is still the mother of her nation; in democracy in Poland we have destroyed so many institutions that we need a point of reference." Mr

Walesa, however, appears to harbour no ambition to be Poland's first king for 201 years; he plans to return to work in the Gdansk shipyards.

Five Polish generals were also missing from the lunch despite having invitations. When they arrived they found there were no seats for them. Instead, they were likely to be invited to last night's gala ballet performance in the Queen's honour at the National Theatre Warsaw.

During the second day of her state visit the Queen was presented with a lump of old aluminium, said to be part of the fuselage of an RAF Liberator bomber that crashed during the Warsaw uprising in August 1944. "That's very historic," the Queen said, glancing hurriedly at an aide to take charge of it.

It was presented when she laid a wreath at a memorial in a Warsaw park marking the spot where the bomber went down. Only one crew member, Henry Lloyd Lyne, survived the crash and he had travelled from his Cornish home for the ceremony yesterday. Mr Lyne, 73, was touched but not overly impressed by the gift to the Queen. "Every time I come here, somebody gives me a bit of aeroplane. They say it is mine. I have a garage full of bits at home."



Alex Bennett leaving the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham yesterday

Swimming champion in crash is home at last

BY CRAIG LORD

THE swimmer Alex Bennett left hospital yesterday almost seven weeks after a head-on car crash shattered her hopes of competing for Britain at the Olympic Games this summer. "I can't wait to get in the water," she said as she left. The Commonwealth gold and silver medalist must first use the hydrotherapy pool to help her to walk again. She suffered injuries to her hip, knees and ankles in the crash.

Bennett had been driving to training in Nottingham to prepare for the British Olympic trials. Those ended in Sheffield on Sunday and Bennett, who would have almost certainly qualified, was allowed out of hospital for the day to support her former teammates.

Bennett, 19, from Nottingham, thanked the staff of the city's Queen's Medical Centre. She added: "I'm glad they let me out to attend the trials. It was good to see so many of my friends make the Olympic team. I'm only sorry I can't be there with them."

Chris, her mother, was delighted at her return: "It's a week early, but three weeks later than the date she might have come home on had she not needed subsequent operations to her ankles."

Bennett, national winter champion at 400m freestyle, had delayed going to university by a year to concentrate on preparing for the Olympics in Atlanta in July.

Teenagers jailed for fatal attack

TWO muggers were jailed for two years at the Old Bailey yesterday after they admitted robbing a newspaper seller who was celebrating the fifth anniversary of VE-Day. Thomas Kidd, from Brixton, south London, who was in his 60s, died four days later from a ruptured liver and abdominal bleeding. He initially declined medical help.

Charges of manslaughter were dropped on the direction of the judge, the Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney. The two youths, now aged 17, cannot be named because of their age at the time of the attack. They robbed Mr Kidd of his £75 takings.

Vicars sacrifice marital joy on the altar of work

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

VICARS' wives suffer in loneliness at home and endure unsatisfactory love lives because of their husbands' demanding jobs, according to a new study by a clergyman. Eighty per cent of clergy complained of working abnormal hours and said it was making a misery of their home lives.

Three out of four vicars and rectors admitted that their wives had complained of loneliness and had at some point accused their husbands of caring more for their parishioners than for them.

Nearly 60 per cent of vicars

had no social life to speak of, while even more complained that their workload interfered with their love lives. For nearly 12 per cent, the interference with their love life was "a source of special stress".

More than 80 per cent said the abnormal hours they worked were a cause of "marital tension" and admitted that their home lives were suffering because of the stress.

The Rev Clifford Bowman, 38, a married rector in Worksop, questioned more than 60 vicars and rectors on occupational stress for his studies for an MA at Nottingham University. He was invited by the Bishop of Southwell, the Right Rev Patrick Harris, to present his findings to all the clergy in the diocese.

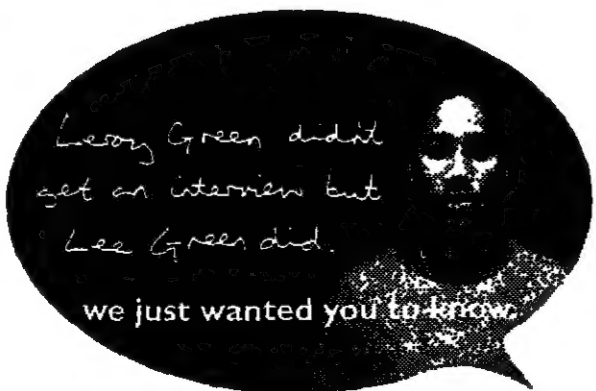
Mr Bowman, who had asked 300 questions about his subjects' physical health, the burden of paperwork and administration, family life, ability to delegate, their perfectionism and the training they had received, found that vicars were given an academ-

ic training unsuited to the practical demands of parish life.

Few had the management skills as well as the pastoral and theological ones needed for the job. Fifty-nine per cent said they had no social life. While attempting to be a good husband, they often assumed their wife would "understand" when they had to spend time with their parishioners instead.

Mr Bowman said: "Clergy tend to have strong assumptions of what a good husband should be like. The turbulence begins when a priest feels that the demands and expectations placed on him by his work are making it increasingly hard for him to live according to his assumptions of what he or she should be like as a good husband and father, or wife and mother. These expectations are increasingly in conflict."

He said that in some cases vicars' wives had amended the questionnaire. Where the vicars had said their jobs did not cause stress, the wives had scribbled: "Oh yes it does."



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THE TIMES

How

Fall

Elderly
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More wor
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THE proportion of the population who drink sensibly has almost a fifth. The increase of alcohol consumption is a reluctant one, give up drinking the Government's advice. In 1984, fewer than 14 million women in the United Kingdom were given glasses of wine. Government's advice to drink no more than 21 units a week. Health of the population remain unchanged. In 1984, 14 million drank 14 units that had not and were not that by 1994 more than 14 million over 14 units a year in general population. Population is very old. The increase in the number of people doing without alcohol is not a good thing. Men also reduce their drinking. per cent of the population more than 14 units

Howard hails success of strategy but insists ministers are far from complacent

Fall in crime marred by rising violence

By RICHARD FORD AND STEWART TENDLER

VIOLENT crime and robberies increased last year in spite of an overall drop in recorded offences in England and Wales for the third consecutive year. The 2.4 per cent fall to 512,600 recorded offences during 1995 was also blighted by a rise in crime during the second half of the year.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, praised the downturn, pointing out that it was only the third time this century that there had been three consecutive falls. The others were 1912-15 and 1951-54.

He was unable, however, to explain why there were 42,776 more recorded crimes in the second half of 1995 compared with the first six months. "I cannot guarantee that every set of crime figures that are produced will follow the downward trend," he said.

"We continue to be determined to fight crime and we are sending a message to the criminal that there is no hiding place. Our strategy is having an impact but we are far from complacent."

Police welcomed the decrease in 1995 but said that the

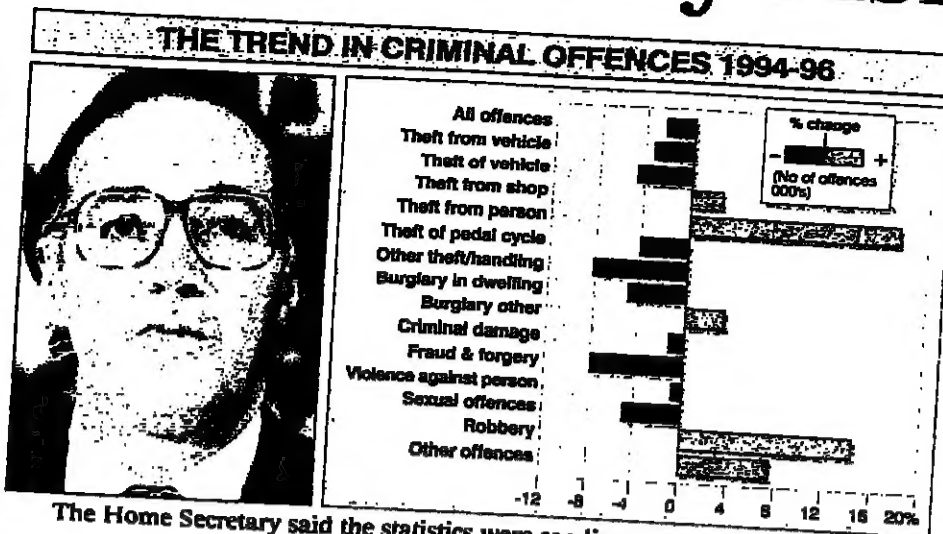
rise in violent crime was a matter of concern because it was an area less susceptible to prevention initiatives. Violent crime rose 2 per cent from 310,900 to 316,300 and the number of robberies, mostly street muggings, rose 14 per cent to 68,400.

Sir Trevor Morris, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, suggested that one reason for the increase in robbery might be that police operations against mugging had encouraged more people to report incidents.

Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, said: "We should be very concerned by the increase in reported robberies. Although violent crime is still only 6 per cent of all known crime, the underlying trend is upwards."

The clear-up rate for offences has not improved. A culprit was found for only 26 per cent of crimes, the same as in 1994. Interviews with criminals already in jail accounted for 20 per cent of the offences cleared up.

Mr Howard will unveil the next phase of his drive to curb



The Home Secretary said the statistics were sending a message to criminals

crime when he announces proposals for tougher sentences tomorrow. He is eager to ensure that the rise in the second half of last year is contained. There were falls of 1 per cent in 1993 and 5 per cent in 1994, giving a total fall of 468,000 crimes during the past three years. In spite of this, however, there has been an annual average increase of 3.6 per cent in recorded crime

during the past decade. During 1995 there was a 15 per cent increase in drug trafficking, to 21,300 offences, a 24.7 per cent rise in perverting the course of justice, to 4,413 and a 16 per cent increase in kidnapping, to 1,250.

Violence against the person fell 1 per cent from 219,200 to 217,500, in contrast with the overall rise in violent offences. It is the first time since 1949

that offences of violence against the person has fallen in a calendar year. Within this category, the number of homicides — including murder, manslaughter and infanticide — rose 3 per cent to 746. Threats or conspiracy to murder rose 3.8 per cent to 7,061. Recorded child abductions increased 24 per cent from 337 to 361.

Sexual offences fell 5 per cent to 30,400, the first drop since 1990. Gloucestershire police recorded the largest year-on-year fall in this category, of 30 per cent, but its 1994 figure was increased by the Frederick and Rosemary West case.

The number of reports of female rape remained stable at about 5,000 and there were 152 reports of male rape, which was made a specific offence in the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. Buggery and indecent assault of men and women fell, as did the number of reported offences of unlawful sexual intercourse with girls under the ages of 13 and 16.

Property offences fell 3 per cent to 4.8 million. Burglary from homes fell from 679,600 to 646,700 though burglary from other premises rose 3.3 per cent to 597,029. Home Office staff suggested that the increase was linked to changes in how the offence was classified. All forces now record burglary from a garage or shed that is not attached to a house as non-domestic.

Vehicle offences dropped 4 per cent from 1,376,400 to 1,323,500; thefts from a vehi-

cles fell from 842,000 to 814,000 and theft of cars or unauthorised taking away dropped almost 5 per cent to 502,925.

The Home Office's annual statistics carry a warning, which points out that a large proportion of crime is unrecorded as many offences are not reported to the police. The British Crime Survey, which is based on interviews with a representative sample of 10,000 people, consistently shows a much higher rate of crime than the police statistics.

A 17 per cent rise in muggings was announced yesterday by the Metropolitan Police, whose figures were included in the Home Office statistics. But Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner, said there had been a sharp drop since the launch of Operation Eagle Eye, aimed at preventing street robbery. In August 1995 the number of muggings was 3,570; in February this year it had fallen by 28 per cent to 2,587.

Sir Paul blamed a 9 per cent rise in recorded burglaries in London on the reclassification of garage and garden shed break-ins.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



Kate Muir meets Emmanuelle Béart, femme fatale, in the Magazine

Melvin Bragg on goddesses ancient and modern, in Weekend

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Household Survey

Elderly disprove predictions of a feeble old age

By IAN MURRAY AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

BRITONS are not only living longer but are staying healthier in old age, according to an authoritative survey on the health of the elderly. Although the population is growing older, there is no increase in the proportion of feeble, infirm or dependent people.

The finding suggests that the 21st century, far from being a nightmare of weak old people becoming a burden on the shrinking proportion of young people, could be a golden age of active, sprightly pensioners.

The figures surprised researchers at the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, who yesterday published the General Household Survey 1994. Bob Barnes, head of the social survey, said: "Despite the ageing population, the proportion who cannot get out and look after themselves hasn't changed."

"Potentially that has quite a large significance for the next century if that were to be the beginning of a trend. If the proportion of dependent disabled unable to look after themselves doesn't increase, it is not such a gloomy outlook as some are predicting."

In the past 25 years, the number of people aged over 75 has increased from 4 per cent to 6 per cent of the population. The proportion of these pensioners aged over 85 has increased from 6 per cent to 9 per cent since 1980, an increase of about 110,000 people in the oldest age group.

Nearly 40 per cent of all elderly people said their health had been good over the

past year compared with less than 25 per cent who said it had not been good. This is a slight improvement on the 1980 figures, but the fact that there are now many more in the older age group means that overall the health of the elderly is improving.

The need for health and social services support has nevertheless grown because the proportion of elderly people living with their children or close relatives has dropped from 21 per cent to 15 per cent since 1980.

Elderly people said they were able to do less than usual on 54 days a year because of illness, but overall only 13 per cent said they were unable to manage going out and walking down the road unaided.

The researchers were concerned about the 39 per cent who lived on their own but were unable to perform simple self-care tasks. Of these, 9 per cent needed help to bathe and 31 per cent could not cut their own toenails. Among those aged over 80 the proportion rose steeply.

"This group will require intensive support from an outside source, either relatives or friends or NHS or personal social services, if they are to remain living in the community," the report says.

Those living alone are buying more modern gadgets, although they are more likely to have a microwave oven than a video recorder or CD player.

Living in Britain: Results from the 1994 General Household Survey (HMSO: £23.50)

More women drink 'unhealthy amount'

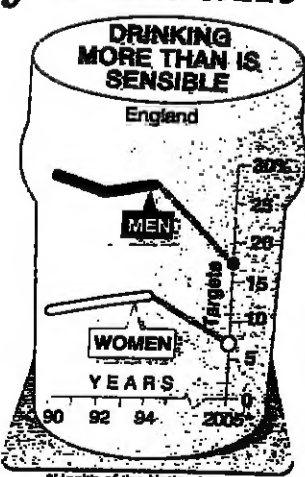
THE proportion of women who drink more than is sensible has increased by almost a fifth in two years.

The increasing popularity of alcohol and a growing reluctance among smokers to give up cigarettes are putting the Government's Health of the Nation targets in jeopardy.

By 2005, ministers want fewer than 7 per cent of women to be drinking more than 14 units of alcohol a week (seven pints of beer or 14 glasses of wine). Although the Government raised the sensible drinking level for women to 21 units in December, the Health of the Nation targets remain unchanged.

In 1984, 9 per cent of women drank 14 units a week. By 1992 that had risen to 11 per cent and yesterday's survey shows that by 1994 13 per cent drank more than 14 units. "You can't overlook the increasing access to alcohol over the past 20 years in supermarkets and general stores," the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys said. "You also have the increased popularity of drinking among women, perhaps to do with increasing independence and wider social life."

Men also seem reluctant to reduce their drinking, with 27 per cent continuing to drink more than 21 units a week.



The Government wants to reduce the figure to 18 per cent by 2005, although it has since raised the sensible drinking level for men to 28 units.

Although smoking is declining, the rate of giving up is much slower than in the 1970s or 1980s. The Government wants fewer than 20 per cent of both sexes to smoke by 2000, but 28 per cent of men and 26 per cent of women are still smoking.

Among girls aged between 16 and 19 cigarette smoking rose to 27 per cent in 1994 from 25 per cent in 1992. In 1974, one in three men smoked cigars, but 20 years later the figure was down to 6 per cent.

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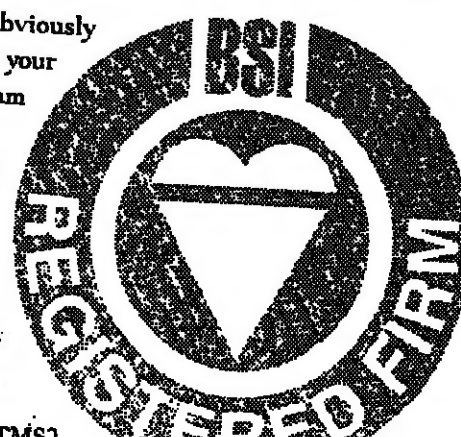
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A funny thing happened to British animator on the way to the theatre

Thompson scores Oscar double with thanks to Austen

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH stars and film-makers basked in the Oscars limelight yesterday, with Emma Thompson and Nick Park making cinema history.

Thompson scored an unprecedented double by adding an Oscar for the screenplay of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* to her acting trophy, the 1991 Academy Award for Best Actress. Nick Park, creator of the Placidine characters Wallace and Gromit, won the Best Animated Short Film prize for the third time. Park's 1996 Oscar for *A Close Shave*, commissioned by the BBC, joins his Academy Awards for *Creature Comforts*, 1991, and *The Wrong Trousers*, 1994; he has won an award for each film he has submitted.

Receiving the award for the Best Adapted Screenplay at the Los Angeles ceremony on Monday night, Thompson, 36, said: "Before I came, I went to visit Jane Austen's grave in Winchester Cathedral to pay my respects and tell her about the grosses. I don't know how she would react to an evening



Nick Park with his third Oscar

like this, but I do hope she knows how big she is in Uruguay."

Park, 37, who runs Bristol-based Aardman Animation, made a typically modest speech: "To Wallace and Gromit and all the crew back home, thanks a lot - we did it again." He confirmed he has had talks with Hollywood executives about making a feature-length animated film. But Wallace and Gromit will not be in it.

It used to take all day to shoot 48 frames of Wallace

and Gromit animation - two seconds of final film. A bigger team, with Park "directing", meant *A Close Shave* was completed at the lightning pace of six seconds a day. The 30-minute cartoon caper, in which Wallace and his tetchy dog Gromit fight crime, took ten months to film, at a cost of £1.3 million. It will be shown again on April 5 on BBC1.

Park himself had a close shave with a policeman on Monday night. He decided to drive to the Oscars in a red motorcycle and sidcar, like the one driven by Wallace and Gromit. He was pulled over and cautioned for not wearing a helmet.

The best documentary-feature prize went to the BBC's *Anne Frank Remembered*, a history of the young Jewish diarist who died in Belsen, including interviews with those who knew the Frank family. The film, to be screened again on April 8 on BBC2, was written, directed and produced by Jon Blair. Collecting his prize, Blair was accompanied to the platform by Miep Gies, who had kept the Franks alive as they hid from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic, and who, he explained, had found Anne's diary after the family was rounded up. "Without her, Anne Frank's story might never have been told," he told the audience.

British animators scored further success, with the Oscar for Best Visual Effects going to Jim Henson's Creature Shop in Camden Town, for creating the talking farmyard animals in *Boyz n the City*. Neil Scanlan collected the award on behalf of the company. "Animatronic" animals that speak like humans included a piglet hero, a duck, cat and a sheepdog.

Other Britons celebrating yesterday included Michael Kuhn, president of Polygram



Emma Thompson acknowledges the applause

Filmed Entertainment, which had many Oscar successes: Kevin Spacey was named Best Supporting Actor for *The Usual Suspects* - co-produced by the British producer Robert Jones; and Christopher Quaarles won best screenplay (written directly for the screen) for that film. Susan Sarandon was named Best Actress for *Dead Man Walking*.

James Acheson, another Briton, won his third Oscar, being named the Best Cos-

North and South will reap rewards

By DALYA ALBERGE

A CLUTCH of Oscars for two films are expected to boost tourism in northern and southern Britain this year. Scotland will reap the rewards for the success of *Braveheart* and Hampshire, the "home" county of Jane Austen, for *Sense and Sensibility*.

Braveheart, directed by and starring Mel Gibson, picked up five Academy Awards. The savage epic of the 13th-century Scottish patriot William Wallace was largely filmed in Ireland, although parts were shot in Glen Nevis and Fort William.

The producers were wooed to Ireland by advantageous tax concessions for film-makers and the need to escape Highland midgets and the unpredictable weather.

Derek Reid, chief executive of the Scottish Tourist Board, said: "If there had been an Oscar for Best Supporting Country, I'm sure Scotland would have picked it up."

Jane Austen spent most of her life in Hampshire and the county's Jane Austen museum at Chawton has already seen an increase in visitors in the wake of the success of the BBC television version of *Pride and Prejudice*.

"We are absolutely delighted and thrilled about the Oscar," said Frances Fee, Hampshire County Council's marketing and promotions manager, referring to Emma Thompson's award for best adapted screenplay.

"It was terrific that Emma Thompson referred to Winchester Cathedral in her acceptance speech and gave us a plug."

The county today launches a free "Jane Austen Country" tourism booklet at the British Travel Trade Fair in Birmingham. It details the novelist's links with Hampshire and the museum, which was the home where she wrote many of her novels.

AND THE WINNERS WERE

Picture: *Braveheart*. Actor: Nicolas Cage, *Leaving Las Vegas*. Actress: Susan Sarandon, *Dead Man Walking*. Supporting actor: Kevin Spacey, *The Usual Suspects*. Supporting actress: Mira Sorvino, *Highly Strung*. Director: Mel Gibson, *Braveheart*. Foreign film: *Antonia's Line*. The Netherlands. Screenplay (written directly for the screen): Christopher Quaarles, *The Usual Suspects*. Screenplay (based on material previously produced or published): Emma Thompson, *Sense and Sensibility*. Art direction: Eugenio Zaratti, *Restoration*. Cinematography: John Toll, *Braveheart*. Sound: Rick Dior, Steve Pedersen, Scott Millan, David MacMillan, *Apocalypse Now*. Effects editing: Lon Bender, Per Hallberg, *Braveheart*. Original musical or comedy score: Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz, *Pocahontas*. Original dramatic score: Luis Bacalov, *The Postman*. *Il Postino*. Original song: Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz, *Colors of the Wind* from *Pocahontas*. Costume: James Acheson, *Restoration*. Documentary feature: *Anne Frank Remembered*. Documentary (short subject): *One Survivor Remembers*. Film editing: Mike Hill, Dan Hanley, *Apocalypse Now*. Make-up: Peter Frampton, Paul Pattison, Lois Burwell, *A Close Shave*. Live action short film: *Liebesman in Love*. Visual effects: Scott E. Anderson, Charles Gibson, Neil Scanlan, John Cox, Baba Gordon E. Sawyer awards: Donald C. Rogers, for sound technology, Honorary award: Kirk Douglas. Honorary award: Chuck Jones, animator. Special achievement award: John Lasseter, *Toy Story*.

Picture: *Braveheart*. Actor: Nicolas Cage, *Leaving Las Vegas*. Actress: Susan Sarandon, *Dead Man Walking*. Supporting actor: Kevin Spacey, *The Usual Suspects*. Supporting actress: Mira Sorvino, *Highly Strung*. Director: Mel Gibson, *Braveheart*. Foreign film: *Antonia's Line*. The Netherlands. Screenplay (written directly for the screen): Christopher Quaarles, *The Usual Suspects*. Screenplay (based on material previously produced or published): Emma Thompson, *Sense and Sensibility*. Art direction: Eugenio Zaratti, *Restoration*. Cinematography: John Toll, *Braveheart*. Sound: Rick Dior, Steve Pedersen, Scott Millan, David MacMillan, *Apocalypse Now*. Effects editing: Lon Bender, Per Hallberg, *Braveheart*. Original musical or comedy score: Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz, *Pocahontas*. Original dramatic score: Luis Bacalov, *The Postman*. *Il Postino*. Original song: Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz, *Colors of the Wind* from *Pocahontas*. Costume: James Acheson, *Restoration*. Documentary feature: *Anne Frank Remembered*. Documentary (short subject): *One Survivor Remembers*. Film editing: Mike Hill, Dan Hanley, *Apocalypse Now*. Make-up: Peter Frampton, Paul Pattison, Lois Burwell, *A Close Shave*. Live action short film: *Liebesman in Love*. Visual effects: Scott E. Anderson, Charles Gibson, Neil Scanlan, John Cox, Baba Gordon E. Sawyer awards: Donald C. Rogers, for sound technology, Honorary award: Kirk Douglas. Honorary award: Chuck Jones, animator. Special achievement award: John Lasseter, *Toy Story*.

Colourful actors win few plaudits for dress sense

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

HOLLYWOOD men shunned the time-honoured black bow tie, white shirt and dinner jacket requested for the 68th Academy Awards ceremony, choosing instead an array of casual, collarless confections.

Jim Carrey, the \$22 million-a-film comic actor, wore a dark, full-length undershirt's necktie. Robin Williams, presenting, opted for an artsy, stiff-angled ribbon sculpture around his neck, while Steven Spielberg walked on stage in black shirt, black tie and black jacket of differing shades. He looked terrible.

Steven Seagal, announcing an award, wore a black vest under his black jacket and a red sapphire and gold "meditation" ring. One thought of a nightclub bouncer.

Equally unconventional were Oscar winners such as the *Apollo 13* editor who wore a round brooch under his Adam's apple, the sound directors from *Braveheart* who both appeared to have forgotten to affix collars as well as ties to their dress shirts, and the sound team from *Apollo 13* who managed one tie among four.

Will Smith, the co-presentor, wore a wide-lapelled casual jacket over a billowing silk shirt sans tie. Jeremy



Gibson: teamed black tie with tartan waistcoat

Irons, one-time epitome of Old World chic, went for the look favoured by bond traders at City functions in the Eighties: horrid gold waistcoat and (ugh) a butterfly collar.

Mel Gibson was another in the patterned waistcoat brigade - inevitably - of tartan. Nor could one look for reassurance to the orchestra pit where Tim Scott, the conductor, was bare-necked.

It was left to the old guard to remind us of how good black tie can look. Martin Landau, Richard Dreyfuss and John Travolta, traditionally attired, were the smartest men in the room.

Cadbury agrees £10m Street deal

By ALEXANDRA FRIBAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CORONATION STREET is to be sponsored by the chocolate firm Cadbury in a £10 million deal. Cadbury's name will appear in the opening and closing credits of the programme and the company will have the right to attach the *Coronation Street* name to its products in special promotions.

British television's biggest sponsorship deal is timed for the autumn to coincide with the introduction of a fourth weekly episode of *Coronation Street*. Andrea Worrall, joint managing director of Granada Television, which makes the programme, said that there would be no gratuitous close-ups of

Cadbury products in the Street's store, the Kabin.

Coronation Street, first broadcast in 1960, is regularly watched by 18 million viewers. Despite its obvious attraction to advertisers, it has taken nearly 18 months for Granada to agree a sponsor. Previously it had seemed close to deals with Pedigree Petfoods and with Allied Domecq, which makes Tetley tea, Tetley beer, Pedro Domecq sherry and Dunkin' Donuts.

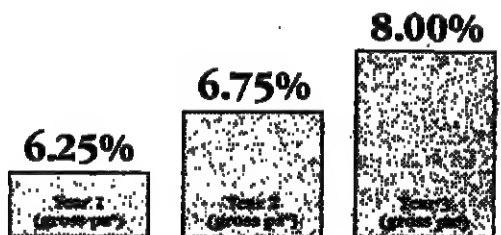
The previous biggest sponsorship was Diet Coke's £4 million deal to sponsor ITV film premieres.

Media, page 23
Television, page 47

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Health Secretary appears relaxed as he deals with third food scare of his political career

Dorrell draws on experience to face public anger

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN DORRELL refused to accept yesterday that he had misjudged the public mood over "mad cow" disease, although he acknowledged that the past week had been one of the toughest of his political career.

The Health Secretary, who has endured a punishing round of ministerial meetings, Commons statements and press interviews since the furore began, said the experience was "not dissimilar" to the crisis when Britain was forced out of the exchange-rate mechanism in 1992, as Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Mr Dorrell attempted to defend the pound as he is now defending beef.

Mr Dorrell appeared cool and relaxed minutes after being mauled by angry mothers on the BBC Radio 4 phone-in programme *Call Nick Ross*. Accused of "appalling" complacency and a "frightening lack of concern" for public safety, he was barely able to get a word in to defend himself.

Afterwards, the Health Secretary brushed aside the charge that he had sheltered behind the Government's scientific advisers and had failed to respond to legitimate public concerns.

"I flatly refuse to accept that people are incapable of considering the evidence when it is presented to them," Mr Dorrell said. "Of course, I understand that real concerns are raised by this and the first reaction is to ask how bad it is going to be. But once you get through the first reaction, I am absolutely sure that in a modern democracy Government must trust the people, give them the facts and leave them to draw mature conclusions."

This is the third food scare that Mr Dorrell has encountered in politics. In 1990, he made his first speech as junior Health Minister, on the risks from shellfish, during a Commons debate on the Food

INTERVIEW

Safety Bill. Earlier, during the salmonella-in-eggs scare of 1988, a constituent who had lost her baby after being infected with salmonella while pregnant came to consult him.

Mr Dorrell, MP for Loughborough, who was 44 on Monday, had to cancel a birthday celebration to appear on BBC2's *Newsnight* after making his Commons statement that children were at no greater risk than adults from eating beef.

Today, he will appear before a special joint session of the Commons health and agriculture committees called to consider the issue of BSE — six years after he first gave evidence on the subject to the

obviously very concerned. But I was determined that we would proceed at a deliberate pace and not be seen either to be complacent or to over-react."

He alerted ministerial colleagues the following day and it was agreed that Seac should be asked to draw up policy recommendations before its findings were made public. The committee met on Tuesday afternoon and deliberated until the early hours of Wednesday morning. Its conclusions were delivered in time for the Cabinet meeting at 10.30am that day which was attended by Professor John Pattison, chairman of Seac, and Dr Cairns.

"There was a lot of concern and discussion and questioning both of the scientific findings and the policy recommendations. The scientists then left and the Cabinet reached its conclusion that the Seac recommendations should be implemented." The conclusions were presented to Parliament last Wednesday.

Mr Dorrell admitted that he had felt the strain last week in defending the Government's position while the critical advice on what to do about children was still awaited.

"I am quite clear that I had no choice but to make the core finding public last Wednesday while the full scientific recommendations were still incomplete. It has been easier this week because the policy response is complete. I am clear in my own mind that the advice is unambiguous, namely, that the product is to all intents and purposes safe to eat."

Beef will continue to appear on the menu of the Dorrell household and his children, aged seven and three, would eat it if they chose to do so. "I will not stop them eating it," he said.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article and Letters, page 19

We must give people the facts and leave them to draw mature conclusions

select committee as junior health minister.

He was first warned of the present crisis over beef two weeks ago by the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman. The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac) was meeting to discuss ten cases of an apparently new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Although their conclusion, that it was likely to be linked with BSE in cattle, was grim, Mr Dorrell decided from the outset to tie his actions to the scientists' advice.

He said yesterday: "I was rung on Sunday night at home in Worcestershire by my private secretary. He told me the conclusions that the Seac committee had reached. I was



Tory 'incompetence' mocked

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR accused the Government of handling the beef crisis with "quite mind-boggling incompetence" yesterday and told the Prime Minister he lacked any sense of responsibility. John Major blamed Mr Blair's front bench for having done all they could to undermine confidence in the agriculture industry and for whipping up hysteria.

The two clashed at Prime Minister's Questions as Mr Blair tried to force Mr Major to quantify the risk from eating beef. Mr Blair said: "Don't you realise this country expects you as Prime Minister to take responsibility?"

Mr Major replied: "I would have thought you and your colleagues had done enough damage in the last few days

THE COMMONS

that you would now stop trying to create health scares by inviting responses from any minister that can only competently come on the basis of scientific advice."

But after repeated attacks, Mr Major hinted that the Government may be forced to take further action, including the selected slaughter of cattle, if unwarranted scares continued to undermine public confidence in beef.

Several Tory MPs with farming constituencies made it clear that Mr Major needed to reassure the public fast that British beef was best. Others blamed the media.

Paul Marland (Gloucestershire W) said the media should despatch investigative teams to Europe "to study what's known in Europe as

stagers and manganese deficiency, which is actually BSE under another name."

David Ashby (Leicestershire NW) said the issue was not a party political crisis but a crisis for the whole nation. He said: "Can you persuade Mr Blair to stop making cheap party political points, which are doing the farming community so much harm?"

Labour MPs made it clear they thought the public knew exactly who was to blame. Mike Hall (Warrington S) told Mr Major: "Given your disgraceful performance this afternoon, do you remember telling the House that the Government had always and immediately acted upon the expert advice given to it by scientists on BSE? Yet you ignored early recommendations that BSE should be monitored through cattle brain samples."

Lawyers query justification for Brussels ban on exports

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL POSITION

THE European Commission could find itself in the dock of the European Court of Justice if it endorses the proposed ban on beef from Britain.

Lawyers specialising in community law were agreed that the Commission had power in theory to impose a ban, at least in Europe, although some questioned the basis for a worldwide ban. But the "sixty four thousand dollar question", as one lawyer put it, "is whether any ban is justified on the scientific evidence currently available."

If the Government did take the Commission to the European Court, it would be on the ground that a ban on beef exports was "disproportionate" to the problem it sought to tackle.

Alastair Sutton, a barrister with the Brussels law firm Forrester Norall & Sutton said: "In matter of the common agricultural policy and external trade, the European Community does have what is called 'exclusive competence' to make decisions. These are the two classic areas where we have ceded power."

He said that although EU treaties provided for free trade, there was allowance for exception on grounds of protecting human health.

There was a clear consensus among lawyers yesterday that the Government could mount a challenge on whether the scientific evidence was such that public health needed a ban for its protection.

A key principle underpinning community law is that of proportionality, which has been developed over the years in rulings by the European Court. It means that any remedy — in this case the ban — must be proportionate to the ill it seeks to address.

Gerald Barling, QC, a leading European expert, said: "Any challenge to both an EU ban or a worldwide ban would be probably brought on

grounds of proportionality, rather than the Commission's inherent power to impose a ban." If the Government took the Commission to court and won, the Commission — or whichever EU institution imposed any ban — could be liable for damages.

Peter Freeman, head of EU law at Simmons & Simmons, said: "It seems to me that the Commission is pushing the basis of legality quite far. It looks doubtful that they have a very clear black letter power. They seem to be basing any proposed ban on some general competence and the indirect effect on trade. This does raise proportionality: whether such action is too extreme on the basis of the evidence."

Keith Hendry, an EU specialist with Clifford Chance, agreed that the Commission had power to ban imports and exports within the community although a worldwide ban was a "grey area."

"I would start to have doubts. Are they basing such a ban on good evidence? One would ask whether they are concerned not so much with public health as with the market."

Even if a challenge might be possible in principle, other lawyers indicated yesterday that it might be difficult to sustain. Marina Wheeler, a community law barrister, said: "A ban falls fairly and squarely within what is allowed under article 36 on grounds of what is necessary to protect public health. The only way it could be challenged is by saying that any ban, on the advice of the scientific and veterinary committee, is unreasonable on the basis of the evidence put before it."

That committee clearly has decided that human health is at risk, and on that basis I can't see that the Government could succeed in challenging it."

Appeals for calm cannot halt consumer stampede

THE one lesson you would have thought the Government would have learnt over the past few years is that you can't buck the markets. That applies as much as to the consumer market for beef as to the foreign exchange markets.

It is no good believing you are right, as John Major evidently does. In the long run, he may be correct that the risk from eating beef is very small, and that is what the current scientific evidence suggests. But what matters in a panic is the short run — and ministerial appeals for calm will not restore the confidence of beef consumers and producers.

Mr Major recognised yesterday in laying the ground for a government retreat over slaughtering, while seeking to shift the blame to irresponsible opposition comments.

Appeals to reason failed over sterling's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992 and are likely to fail again over beef. One of the failings of the Major Government is stubbornness and a reluctance to

HIDDEN COSTS

make contingency plans at times of market pressure. That was true in the summer of 1992 as the Government stumbled inexorably towards Black Wednesday — as is vividly brought home by Philip Stephens's new book *Politics and the Pound* — and the same trance-like immobility has been repeated over the past week.

An essential political skill is to know how to escape from difficult situations rather than to make them worse. When the new scientific evidence appeared about a possible link between BSE and CJD, ministers should have realised the likely impact.

Their holding statement was bound to produce the reaction it has, albeit inflamed by some panicky stories and shrill reactions from some Labour spokesmen. It is obviously right to rely on scientific advice but that is a necessary, rather than sufficient, condition for the exercise of political judgment.

Ministers would have been more sensible to have pre-

pared plans to reassure consumers rather than to allow uncertainty to develop. It is no good saying everything is fine when you have just said your previous assurances have been proved wrong. That has inevitably fuelled fresh doubts. Action of some kind has to be taken to demonstrate that consumers need not worry and to revive the beef market, as Paddy Ashdown argued yesterday. The cost of limited action on slaughtering, however symbolic, need not be very high.

Tory MPs are divided on the issue. Some argue that the fuss is much overdone and that the farming lobby has too much influence, while farming MPs are demanding that something must be done. Of course, the issue is not above politics, that is pious nonsense. The Government deserves to be criticised for its mishandling, though Stephen Dorrell has shown a sure touch in most of his public appearances.

But some of the Labour reaction has been over the top. It is crass to pretend that

any government — Labour as well as Tory — would not face the same dilemmas over balancing the scientific evidence with the interests of consumers and producers. There is no simple solution. Tony Blair's forensic approach and Gavin Strang's experience and knowledge have been preferable to Harriet Harman's partisan exaggerations — which yet again showed the price which Labour is paying for having been in opposition for so long.

Beef will not be on the front pages for ever. These rows normally only stay in the headlines for a week or two at most. People will start eating beef again. The Tories' standing in the polls is likely to suffer in the short-term and the affair may reinforce existing public doubts about its competence, however unfair Mr Major may regard such a reaction. BSE is likely to be remembered as merely a footnote in the history of the Major Government, but in its decline rather than its recovery.

PETER RIDDELL

Carcass disposal would be huge task

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SLAUGHTER OPTION

ANY policy involving the large-scale slaughter of cattle to control BSE would face formidable logistical difficulties.

The National Farmers' Union argues that the best policy would be to destroy cows that have reached the end of their productive lives. That would not require any new slaughtering facilities since such animals are already being killed. But instead of being used for food, the carcasses would be destroyed, which could present problems.

In 1967-68, to control an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, 212,000 cows were slaughtered and burnt in the fields, along with 108,000

sheep and 114,000 pigs. But foot-and-mouth presented no danger to human beings.

A similar policy could not be followed for the much larger numbers of cattle involved in the NFU plan. It takes high temperatures to destroy the infective agents, so furnaces would be needed to ensure safety. Otherwise, the infection might escape and re-enter the food chain. Similarly, the slaughtered cattle could not be buried for fear of contaminating water courses.

Slaughtering could be the least of the problems, Ian Gardner of the NFU said. "We already slaughter about 3.3 million cattle every year, 800,000 cows and 2.5 million younger creatures," he said.

"There is a lot of surplus slaughterhouse capacity so increasing those numbers might not be impossible."

Mr Gardner and others at the NFU argue that suspect cattle are safer alive than dead. "So long as they are alive they can't spread the disease, and they don't give it to their progeny," he says. "They are perfectly safe."

Industry sources said yesterday that abattoirs could start closing and laying off staff within the next ten days unless beef sales started moving again and the European blockade was lifted.

Britain's 484 abattoirs employ 15,000 people and earn about £3.5 billion a year. A further 100,000 people work

in the meat-cutting and processing plants that the abattoirs supply.

The abattoirs' difficulties have been compounded by the decision to ban the use of any abattoir waste in feed for farm animals. As a result, thousands of tonnes of waste material remain uncollected at slaughterhouses.

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Contamination scare spreads to gelatine, biscuits, fish and chips, cosmetics and medicines

Food firms try to cut all sources of British beef

BY ANDREW PIERCE
AND ROBIN YOUNG

CONSUMERS

FOOD manufacturers were considering dropping British beef from a wide range of products last night as consumer concern grew over the mixed messages coming from the Government and the European Union.

Customer service departments of shops were bombarded yesterday by record numbers of telephone calls from customers. Birds Eye's is expected to become the latest company to ban British beef from its pre-packed food. Customers telephoning the company helpline were assured that deliveries would be halted by the end of the week.

The Vegetarian Society said it was handling more than 400 telephone inquiries a day. Chris Olivani, the information manager, said: "The difficulty of avoiding beef fats and extracts means that choosing products carrying the 'suitable for vegetarians' symbols is the only quick way of ensuring you do not eat beef. It saves having to trawl through the fine print."

Asda and Tesco have offered a list of foods that do not contain British beef by-products. Tesco will differentiate between its Irish and British beef products for the first time. Sainsbury's announced yesterday that it would label all

foods containing beef or beef derivatives.

CPC, the manufacturer of Bovril and Knorr products, is considering using "no British beef" signs on its labels, and British beef may be dropped from Oxo cubes for the first time. Even fish and chips are not immune from the beef threat, as many shops use beef lard for frying.

United Biscuits, whose brand names include McVitie's and KP, said it was considering ways to keep British beef out of its foods. The company exports 25 per cent of its products.

Nestlé said that all its confectionery was imported from Germany and France but a small proportion of chilled desserts contained gelatine. "They will be affected. We are very concerned by the European Union move," a spokesman said.

Boots confirmed that beef was contained in a small number of its cosmetics and medicine. But the company declined to name the products or the source of the beef. Beef is also involved in the manufacturing process of Benlylin expectorant cough medicine. Max Factor was considering whether to continue the use of beef tallow in its lipstick range.

An emergency board meet-

ing was held yesterday at Seven Seas Health Care, the market leader in vitamin supplement capsules. Alan Clements, the commercial director, said: "The gelatine used in all Seven Seas products does not derive from British beef or beef by-products. If the EU ban includes our products, that would be a travesty. The gelatine comes from German beef, is of pharmaceutical grade and much better than that used in confectionery."

Roger Jones of Croda Colloids, a leading gelatine manufacturer, said yesterday that there was no substitute for gelatine as a gelling agent, emulsifier and stabiliser. Most gelatine used in confectionery is made from pigskin, but is often blended with gelatine from beef bones and hides. "It is impossible to guarantee that a gelatine does not contain anything derived from British beef, because there is a world trade in the raw materials of beef bones

and cow hides. It follows that some of the gelatine manufactured in this country is made with imported materials." Marks & Spencer confirmed that sales of beef products were down sharply. A spokeswoman said: "We have detected a switch to other animal protein, such as poultry, lamb and pork."

Tesco's growing export business, mainly in Cyprus and the Middle East, was likely to be affected. "We will obviously have to take stock of what is happening and see how it is going to affect us, but clearly it will have an impact."

Sales of venison have soared. Brecon Court Deer Farm at Llanosy, near Chepstow, Gwent, sold out last night for the first time in its seven-year history. Venison steaks sell at £6.20 a pound.

Barbara McElroy, the owner of the 180-acre farm, said: "We have had faxes for mail-order supplies from all over the country. There is not a steak left in the shop."

WHAT'S IN YOUR SHOPPING BASKET

NO BEEF CONTENT

Bread with vegetable fat
Bisto powder
Marmite
Yeast extracts
Tinned Heinz pork sausages and beans
Self-raising and plain flour
Campbell's meatball products
Glenister sausage rolls
Walls pork sausages
McCauley pizzas
Waller's crisps including the beef and onion variety
McVitie's ginger cakes
Tinned vegetables
Custard powder
Linda McCartney's product range including pies and sausages
Muesli
Butter
Wholewheat pasta
Kellogg's Frosties and Hickies
Custard Cals
Puff Wheat biscuits
Full-fat yoghurts
Body Shop lipsticks
Vegetarian labelled cheese
Cadbury's Tole
Unflavoured fruit juice
Diet Cola
Fox's vegetarian-approved biscuits
Low-sugar Polo mints
Dried fruit
Snowcrest vegetarian jellies
Rice
Anchovy paste
Royal Jelly
Honey
Custard
Pasta
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Healthy eating coleslaw

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McVitie's Digestives; Home
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Heinz soups
Cullard & Bowser soups
Campbell's oxtail soup
Bovril
Glenister Cornish pasties
Birds Eye chilli con carne, pre-packed shepherd's pie, spaghetti bolognese and frozen sausage and mash
Nestlé chilled desserts
Most pork sausages
Bisto Best gravy granules
Oxo cubes
Fry's Borden meat pies
Rowntree's jelly
Sainsbury's gravy granules
Frozen cakes using lard
Sweet mince
Christmas pudding
Pork pie
Ginger nut biscuits
Tesco seafood cocktail
Fruit flavoured gums
Lard bones
Fruit Fool desserts
Tesco chicken wings and spicy tomato marinade
Suet

PRODUCTS WITH OVERSEAS BEEF CONTENT

Rowntree's wine gums and fruit pastilles
Seven Seas vitamin supplement capsules
Bisto turkey and chicken gravy granules
Bovril Knorr stock cubes
Birds Eye roast beef and gravy and steak and kidney pie
Walls ice cream
Cheese
Flood fruit cakes
Heinz and Farley baby foods
Cadbury's chocolate fingers
Very low fat yoghurts
Finnia Food pre-packed dinners
Wine flavoured gelatine
Turkish Delight
Marshmallows
Many low-fat spreads
Chewing gum
Thickset marmalade
Sainsbury's chicken stew with dumplings
Pâté
Boots chicken casserole
Frankfurters
Salami
Heinz sandwich fillers
Pazo stuffing mix
Canned ravioli
Dumpling mix
Fronzo's pasta
Tinned sponge puddings

Pork and poultry in the clear

EXPERIMENTS

PORK and chicken are unlikely to be affected by the BSE scare, experiments at the Central Veterinary Laboratory have shown (Nigel Hawkes writes).

While the symptoms of BSE can be induced in pigs by injecting material from infected cows into their brains, feeding them the same material does not cause the disease.

The same experiments have been carried out with chickens, with even more clear-cut results. They could not be infected with BSE either by feeding or injection.

Sheep could be more of a potential problem. While scrapie has been present in sheep for at least 200 years, there is no evidence that it can cross to man. But sheep fed BSE-contaminated material do develop the disease.

This opens up the possibility that BSE-infected sheep could be more of a threat than those with scrapie, but there is no evidence of this happening.

France says mass slaughter may be only option

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

EUROPE

BRITAIN should slaughter its entire cattle herd if questions persist on the danger posed to humans by BSE, the French Agriculture Minister said yesterday.

"If it is a question of public health, then why not?" Philippe Vasseur told *La Tribune* newspaper, adding that France was anxious to help solve the crisis and called for European solidarity to aid the British beef industry. He accepted that British farmers would have to be paid compensation.

M. Vasseur's comments were the latest effort by the French Government to convince the public that BSE is almost entirely a British phenomenon and that beef produced in France is quite safe. On Monday the French authorities slaughtered a herd of cattle in Brittany after one was found to be infected with BSE.

France has introduced a system to enable consumers to distinguish imported meat from home-produced beef. French meat will carry a red, white and blue label with the initials VF, standing for "Viande Française" — a somewhat unhappy choice since the initials VF might also stand for "vache folle" or mad cow.

IRELAND

Irish police launched a massive security operation yesterday along the border to prevent farmers in Northern Ireland from smuggling cattle into the Republic to beat the ban on British beef. Extra

officers were drafted into border areas amid fears that smuggling could harm the reputation of the Republic's beef industry which is worth £5 billion.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, rejected calls from farmers in Northern Ireland to treat their beef separately from beef on mainland Britain.

GERMANY

A woman showing the symptoms of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease worked in a Bavarian restaurant where she often handled cow brains, a doctor said yesterday.

Bastian Conrad, a Munich neurologist treating the 36-year-old woman, said she had lost consciousness and was dying. She was showing CJD symptoms but he could not make a complete diagnosis until after her death.

PORTUGAL

Thirty six reported cases of BSE have been exclusively among cattle imported from Britain, officials said yesterday.

Portuguese farmers are reluctant to undertake inspections or reveal cases because the Government does not pay compensation for the slaughter of infected animals.

ITALY

Meat importers said they would use other European suppliers in place of British beef. McDonald's Italia issued a statement saying it used only Spanish beef.

A realistic guide to avoiding risk

IN 1951, when a young officer in a Scottish territorial regiment, I was taken back to tea by my squadron leader. He strode through the nursery where his young family were having tea, turned to me and said: "We won't drink that — kid's drink." We finished a bottle of brandy in his study.

There has always been a macho component to choosing food. Sitting in a West End restaurant this week it was interesting to guess which diners would make a point of ordering the roast beef and who would opt for the safety of fish, noodles and seaweed. My squadron leader would have been proud to see how many men were not frightened by a prison and defied this infective agent by ordering beef.

Ordering a totally safe, beef-free dish is not easy. The soup with dumplings might have looked safe but the best dumplings are made from beef suet, and who can be certain that beef extracts have not been added to the soup?

er oil and multi-vitamins, not to mention the other nostrums wrapped in capsules of gelatine whose origin is unknown.

To be 100 per cent certain that in future no transmissible spongiform encephalopathy will get the chance to attack your grey cells, you would have to become vegetarian, eat organically grown fresh vegetables, eschew fish unless cooked in plain vegetable oil, renounce pastry, biscuits, cakes unless home-made and avoid taking capsules or having a sweet pastille with coffee. We must all have eaten products made from beef butchered before precautions against BSE were introduced.

I will continue to avoid composite beef dishes, sausages and pies and similar food and will not buy beef until the results of the present research are known. But I certainly would not bother about the small amounts in vitamin capsules or Norfolk dumplings, nor would I recommend that my patients did.

DR THOMAS

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Mock orange seed

Seeds of mortality sow fear on island

By Nick Nuttall
Environment
Correspondent

AN ALIEN tree brought to the Caribbean by Victorian botanists is rampaging through Jamaica's Blue Mountains, threatening scores of rare species and the country's coffee plants.

Scientists from the University of Wales, Bangor, and the West Indies, said yesterday that finding a way of curbing the mock orange was a race against time. The Blue Mountains are home to more than 500 rare plants of which 275 are unique to Jamaica. Dr Devi Prasad, from the University of the West Indies, Kingston, said he feared many of these will be lost if the tree, *Pittosporum undulatum*, is allowed to spread unchecked.

The tree has such a dense crown that it is blotting out sunlight, killing plants which stop soil being washed away during heavy rainfall.

Details of the threat will emerge tomorrow when the scientists get £43,000 under the Darwin Initiative, a British Department of the Environment programme set up after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 to conserve wildlife in the developing world.

The mock orange was brought to Jamaica in the 19th century from Australia by Kew Gardens, but spread partly due to local birds adapting to eat the fruit and then spreading seeds.

Communist regime demands support for handpicked councillors

Hong Kong's civil servants told by China to toe line

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA has put more pressure on Hong Kong by telling senior civil servants here yesterday that they must demonstrate their support for the Peking-appointed Provisional Legislative Council, which will be established before the 1997 takeover.

This places civil servants in the position of having to support a policy opposed by their present masters, the Hong Kong Government.

In recent days, China's appointed 150-member Preliminary Working Committee — which is establishing the next government apparatus — has announced the abolition of the present wholly elected Legis-

lative Council in 1997, and denied membership in the provisional body to any democrats currently serving.

In Peking, Chen Ziyang, deputy director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said that senior civil servants would have to show their support for the provisional council, but did not say whether civil servants could continue in office if they failed to do so. Because the provisional council will be operating months before the takeover, there will be, in effect, two law-making bodies sharing some members, although the laws enacted or abolished by the

new council would not come into effect until after 1997. A member of the Preparatory Committee, Eric Lee, who serves on the present council, said he objected to the Peking proposal because civil servants must be neutral. Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, gave a warning against "any action that in any way erodes confidence or makes civil servants feel uncomfortable about the transition and about life after 1997".

Cheung Man-kwong, a member of the Democratic Party which holds the largest number of seats of any party in the council, said: "If this is really the position of the Chinese Government, I think they better take Hong Kong back immediately — no need to wait until 1997".

Patrick attacked Sir Anthony Jolliffe, a former Lord Mayor of London, called himself "a champion for China", attacking British and American stances towards Peking and calling Chris Patten "a failure", the newspaper *Eastern Express* reported in Hong Kong. Sir Anthony, a businessman trading with China, also defended China's stance on Taiwan. Attacking Mr Patten, he said: "Britain should send a man of stature to Hong Kong rather than a former MP who has lost his seat in an election. Sending a failure to Hong Kong to negotiate with the Chinese is an insult to the Chinese people." (AFP)



Patten: called "failure"

Peking rules out a Taiwan summit

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

THE conciliatory mood in China-Taiwan relations after Taipei's presidential election seems to have been short-lived, with Peking yesterday ruling out a bilateral summit.

The United States carrier, *USS Independence*, was sailing back to her base in Japan, leaving only her sister ship, *USS Nimitz*, on patrol off eastern Taiwan. The *Nimitz's* presence is being reviewed every day.

Yesterday Shen Guofang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, repeated Peking's standard preconditions before any high-level meeting can take place between President Jiang Zemin of China and Lee Teng-hui, his Taiwanese counterpart, who savoured an electoral triumph on Saturday despite China's attempts to intimidate voters.

"I think this [summit] is not on our agenda, because we would still like to see whether the Taiwan side will stop its activities to create two Chinas or one China, one Taiwan," Mr Shen said, referring to Taipei's push for indepen-

dence. "If they cease such activities, then relations between the two sides can be relaxed and after that we can discuss anything else." Taiwan, he stated, could enjoy unofficial trade and cultural ties with the rest of the world, but could not seek diplomatic recognition or membership of the United Nations. Peking regards Taiwan as a renegade province.

Mr Shen said that although the "door is open" to Taiwan, Taipei was continuing its activities to "split the motherland". He also accused a "certain country", clearly America, of interfering in China's internal affairs by selling weapons to Taiwan.

"The door is closed by them [Taiwan]," Mr Shen noted. But he said if Taiwan stopped its "splitting" acts, and foreign forces ceased interfering in China's internal affairs, "we will be waiting by the door".

Mr Shen, however, did not resume the personal vitriolic attacks on President Lee — the only post-election sign yesterday of a softer Peking stance.



Thousands queue in Hong Kong for the special passport giving them visa-free access to Britain and many other countries as the deadline draws near

Passport fever in colony

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

WITH 8,000 people applying daily for the British Dependent Territories Citizens' Passport, the Hong Kong Government has been forced to open special facilities to cope with the rush.

The deadline for applications is at the end of this month. A spokesman for the Immigration Department said yesterday that up to 80,000 people may apply before then.

There are 2.2 million people among the colony's six million population who are eligi-

ble for the passport, which gives the holder visa-free access to many countries, including Britain. The measure was announced by John Major during his recent visit to the colony. The passport does not, however, give the holder residential rights in Britain.

Most Hong Kong visitors only spend a few weeks or up to two months in Britain. Few remain behind illegally. Those who want to emigrate prefer to go to Canada, the United States and Australia.

The question nagging Hong Kong citizens who have established residence abroad

is whether they will be granted Chinese citizenship if they return here after China gains sovereignty over the colony in 1997. This week Peking announced that the right would be extended to them if they refused to claim consular protection from those countries for which they hold a second passport. But many are objecting to this caveat because of uncertainty about the nature of Communist rule.

About 500,000 Hong Kong citizens, who hold foreign passports, have returned here after establishing their right to abode abroad.

Kashmir mosque siege ends

Delhi: Fifteen separatists, who took refuge in Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine on Sunday after a gun battle with police, left peacefully last night as clerics vouched for the safety of hair from the Prophet Muhammad's beard kept in a vault (Christopher Thomas writes).

The Prophet's hair once disappeared from the Hazratbal mosque on the shore of Dal Lake in Srinagar, capital of the Kashmir Valley, prompting riots until it was found and declared authentic.

More than two dozen gunmen from the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front took refuge there. The remaining gunmen were also surrendering, police said.

Grenade attack

Lucknow, India: Seven people were killed and about 100 injured when grenades were hurled at a low-caste politician addressing an election rally in Uttar Pradesh. The politician was among the dead. (Reuters)

Rescuers die

Johannesburg: Ten rescuers trying to save a miner were killed in a rockfall at Tshikondeni coalmine in Northern Province, the mine company Iscor said. The miner's fate is unknown. (Reuters)

Mafia sentence

Rome: A former leader of Italy's defunct Socialist Party, Giacomo Mancini, 79, has been found guilty of links to the Calabrian Mafia and sentenced to 3½ years' jail in Pavia. (Reuters)

'Times' award

Tania Branigan, a student at King's College, Cambridge, has won The Times Royal Mail Young Foreign Correspondent of the Year Competition. She receives £2,000 and two tickets to Thailand.

Wedded to work

Lake Mary, Florida: Seven Postal Service workers here who cannot remove their wedding rings have been told to have them cut off or lose their jobs under safety rules banning jewellery at work. (AFP)

Sierra Leone rebels in peace talks

SIERRA LEONE'S rebel leader, Corporal Foday Sankoh, emerged after five years in the shadows yesterday to meet government mediators in the Ivory Coast (Sam Kiley writes).

The talks were aimed at hammering out a peace deal before the country's newly-elected civilian Government takes over this week. Corporal Sankoh left his bush hideout to be flown to the talks by

Red Cross helicopter, accompanied by the Ivory Coast's Foreign Minister as a guarantee of his safety.

The first meeting between Corporal Sankoh and Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, the outgoing Sierra Leone head of state, concentrated on what the rebel soldiers in the Revolutionary Democratic Front will do if a peace deal is reached. At least 10,000 people have been killed and 2

million displaced in Sierra Leone's civil war. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, a Muslim lawyer, is expected to take over as the country's President on Friday.

Women killed: A number of women acting as intermediaries between the rebels and authorities were killed and 25 were injured when a rebel soldier opened fire because they had failed to gain government guarantees. (AFP)

Battle for tourists leaves ugly scars on Victoria Falls

FROM MICHAEL HARTNACK IN LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

HEEDING warnings that the tourist influx is wrecking the natural beauty of the world's mightiest waterfall, experts were meeting in the Zambian border town of Livingstone to try to agree a two-nation conservation plan.

Vicious rivalry over tourist dollars last September led to shots being fired from the Zambian bank on a Zimbabwean launch, plying the island-strewn reaches of the Zambezi river above the Victoria Falls. More than half a million visitors each year follow in the footsteps of the Scottish explorer David Livingstone, who saw the falls in 1855 and named them for Britain's reigning monarch. "Sights so lovely," he wrote, "must have been viewed by angels in their flight."

Nowadays the thunder of the 300-ft-high and mile-wide waters could be drowned by the noise of spotter planes, helicopters and boats of sight-seers, while Zambia's Eastern Cataract is dry most of the year because of a hydro-electric plant upstream. As a result, Zambia's section of the falls' rainforest, declared a

world heritage site by the United Nations, is dying.

Bungee-jumpers leap from the historic suspension bridge, built at Cecil Rhodes's behest at the turn of the century. The whitewater rafting course in the downstream gorges will be drowned by the Batoka dam by 2006. Its waters may also be contaminated by cholera. The flintlock musket Livingstone carried to fight off Arab slave traders might come in equally handy today to deal with muggers from among the estimated 50,000 unemployed in this economically stagnant town named in his honour.

A detailed environmental impact assessment, prepared for the Governments of Zimbabwe and Zambia by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, urges the adoption of a single strategy and a two-nation trust, which could see a threefold growth in tourism by 2005, say the authors. Last year Zimbabwe earned £72 million from tourism, a vital boost for President Mugabe's economy.

The assessment warns delegates of Zambia's growing envy at Zimbabwe's success in attracting tourist development, allegedly at the expense of shared natural resources. "The marked difference between each side is a cause for concern because it may get in the way of rational planning and management."

The experts also protest against the construction of a bridge over the Zambezi in an unspoilt wilderness area by a influential consortium, including the Zimbabwean Vice-President Joshua Nkomo.

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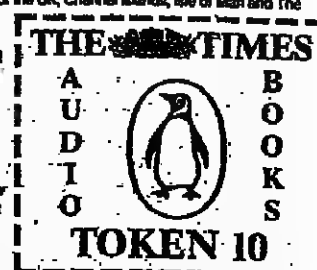
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Nostalgic Dole pays tribute to values of Kansas heartland

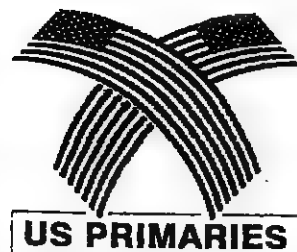
FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN RUSSELL, KANSAS

BENEATH vast skies on the great plains of the American heartland lies Russell, Kansas, a speck of 4,800 people that is 1,500 miles from either coast, 250 miles from the nearest metropolis and a throwback to an earlier, more innocent, age for which modern America feels so nostalgic.

Here the air is clean, the climate bracing, the townsfolk all know each other, greet strangers warmly and flock to church on Sunday. Wheat, cattle and a little local oil provide work for all who want it, and while wages are low \$30,000 (£19,000) buys a decent home on a tidy street. Few bother to lock their doors, the only recent offence of note being the draining of the town's water tower by some prankster.

It is the sort of thoroughly wholesome place that every presidential candidate would love to say he came from. As he was cementing the Republican nomination in yesterday's California primary, the 72-year-old senator made an emotional return to his birthplace to show America "the real Bob Dole" behind that دور image, to counter the charge that he is a creature of Washington, and to make Russell work for him like Hope, Arkansas, did for President Clinton in 1992.

He was the "heartland" candidate, he told a rally in the



US PRIMARIES

high school gym where the whole town gathered to give him a hero's welcome and he twice had to choke back tears. "Anyone who wants to understand me must first understand the community of Russell," he said. The town had shaped and steered him. It had taught him discipline, integrity, hard work and self-reliance. He had his limitations as a candidate but "it was here I learnt that doing is better than talking... it was here that I learnt not to wear my heart on my sleeve. It was here

Washington: Edmund Muskie, a lawyer and former senator and Secretary of State, died, aged 81, early yesterday after a heart attack. He had had triple bypass surgery at Georgetown University Medical Centre after the attack last Thursday. Mr Muskie served as Secretary of State under President Carter in 1980 and 1981. (Reuters)

Obituary, page 21

I learnt to feel deeply for my country and my family, and that some things are worth living for and some worth sacrificing for." Braving an icy prairie wind he laid flowers at his parents' grave, then visited the modest Maple Street bungalow where his family weathered the terrible dust storms of the 1930s and lived for two years in the basement during the Depression so the house upstairs could be let.

With his two sisters, who still live in Russell, Mr Dole crossed the lines of the once great Union Pacific railway to the grain silos where his father laboured, then headed up Main Street. He passed the shop where his mother gave sewing lessons to help to make ends meet. He greeted Alice Mills, his 96-year-old former mathematics teacher, who complained that he was looking thin. He lingered at the old Dawson's Drugstore where he worked as a schoolboy.

Far more importantly it was to Dawson's that the people of Russell came to contribute \$1,800 (£1,200) for the operations the young Bob Dole needed after returning in a body cast from the Second World War. He spent 39 months fighting for his life and overcoming his disabilities before law school.

At Banker's Clothing Store Mr Dole met Adolf Reising, a childhood friend who designed a cast to help him to



Bob Dole brandishes a root beer mug given to him at a rally in Russell yesterday. He sold root beer as a schoolboy

strengthen his shattered right arm. His last stop was at the courthouse where he began a political career as county attorney that would take him to Washington the year Dwight Eisenhower, America's only Kansas President, retired. On the same courthouse lawn, Mr Dole launched his 1976 vice-presidential campaign, broke down as he recalled how the people of Russell had helped him and was rescued by

President Ford who rose to lead the crowd in applause. It is a compelling life story of a sort now required for presidential candidates but has the added virtue of veracity. Contrast it with the magically named Hope as the place that shaped President Clinton but who, in fact, spent his formative years in the far less savoury Arkansas gambling resort of Hot Springs. It is also a story the natural-

ly reticent Mr Dole has only begun to exploit in this, his third and final presidential bid. Given America's present angry mood, even this consummate Washington insider of 36 years has realised the necessity of highlighting his Kansas roots.

Russell hardly objects to becoming a campaign prop for its most famous son. The exploitation is mutual. A large billboard directs travellers on

the nearby highway to "Bob Dole" country. The town's shops are selling Bob Dole T-shirts, mugs and baseball caps. Its Mayor, Neal Farmer, is already dreaming of a presidential library. "It's hard to tell which was the biggest gusher," said Jim Joule, editor of the Russell Daily News. "The discovery of oil in 1923 or Dole becoming a politician. Both things have been very beneficial to Russell."

Unions pledge \$35m for Clinton war-chest

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

SWALLOWING their past misgivings, America's biggest federation of trade unions has endorsed President Clinton for re-election and promised to help him with a huge campaign war-chest.

All but two of 78 unions, representing 13 million workers, gave their backing to Mr Clinton during a Washington conference of the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organizations. The two exceptions, the Teamsters and San Francisco's Longshoremen, said they wanted more time to consider their decision.

The endorsement was greeted as a declaration of war by Republicans. They were upset that the unions will raise a fund of \$35 million (£23 million) by imposing a 15 cent monthly levy on members.

In this way, the Republicans claimed, the 40 per cent of union members who voted Republican in the last presidential election will be forced to contribute to Democratic coffers against their wishes. The Republicans filed complaints with the Federal Election Commission, accusing the union federation of breaking election laws that restrict the unions' use of workers' money.

The funds will go for radio and television commercials and a mobilisation drive targeted at 75 constituencies where Republican incumbents are considered vulnerable.

The federation endorsed Mr Clinton despite its fury three years ago over his enactment of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which the unions say has caused the loss of thousands of American jobs to Mexico. The unions recognise, though, that they have nowhere else to go in an election that pits Mr Clinton against Bob Dole.

Their aim is to retain the White House in Democratic hands and to win back Congress for the Democrats before the Republicans become too entrenched.

America's trade unions are promising a new solidarity and militancy, after years of decline, under the federation's abrasive new leader, John Sweeney. He delighted delegates by describing Newt Gingrich, House Speaker, and the Republican majority, as "Newt and the Blowfish".

Ankara: Hillary Clinton laid a wreath here at the tomb of Kemal Ataturk, the father of the Turkish republic, on the third day of a goodwill tour in Europe. She will make a speech in Istanbul tomorrow on women's and children's rights. (Reuters)

British tourists tell of balloon crash in Rocky Mountains

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

BRITISH tourists in the Rocky Mountains yesterday described how they were nearly killed on a hot air balloon sightseeing trip when the craft struck a mountain ridge and caught fire. One man spoke of "panic as the flames licked up around us" and counted himself fortunate to be alive.

Nine passengers from Britain were in the basket of the balloon when it was caught by a cross wind and blown onto the ridge. One woman was seriously hurt. The gust caught the balloon as it was preparing to land on an 8,000ft-high plateau surrounded by peaks.

The impact caused the basket to topple over and the gas-fuelled heating equipment burst into flames. The basket, too, caught fire as it was being dragged along the snowy ridge out of control. Some of the passengers fell from the

basket, others had to scramble for safety, before the flaming remains of the balloon flew high in the air. It was later retrieved 12 miles from the site of the crash.

The accident happened in good weather conditions near Colorado Springs, two hours' drive from the ski resort of Breckenridge where the 45-minute pleasure flight began and where many of the passengers were on holiday.

One of them, John McCulloch, of Edinburgh, said: "Suddenly the balloon lost height and, despite the efforts of the pilot, we bumped into the hillside."

"The heater was knocked over and the basket caught fire. People, including myself, tumbled out as we were dragged along the top of a ridge for about 50 yards. As you can imagine, there was a bit of a panic as the flames



licked up around us. Fortunately the basket was on the ground. We didn't gain height again."

The basket was up-ended when it hit a rock or tree stump. "We were being bowled along but were unable to put the brakes on, as it were," Mr McCulloch said. He added: "By the time I got on my feet everybody had been thrown out. It was all over in a minute or two. A few people had their hair singed and a couple looked to have broken bones."

Margaret Lowday, 43, from London, was taken by helicopter to a hospital in Denver, the nearest big city, and was yesterday said to be in a serious condition. Three other people taken to a local hospital, Joanne Orton, 30, of Aylestone, Leicestershire, Brian Kinghorn, 42, of Grey-

stoke, Cumbria, and Mr McCulloch, were held overnight and were yesterday resting in their hotel rooms.

Mr Kinghorn said: "All I can remember is the burners coming down in a flash of flame. The balloon really caught the ground and turned completely upside down." Mr McCulloch said that the pilot, Rick Lang, cut him free from a tangle of balloon equipment as the craft careered towards the edge of the ridge.

"I thought I had jumped out but could not understand why the balloon was trailing me along," said Mr McCulloch. "It kept lifting me and setting me back down. I couldn't get it off me." Mr Lang, whose company is called Mile High Adventures, was not seriously hurt in the crash. He could not be contacted yesterday.

Mr McCulloch, who said that he would be unlikely to take another balloon ride, discounted any suggestions that the basket was carrying too many people.

"It was a large basket and there was plenty of room. The balloon could easily lift our weight. It was just bad luck that we got into a cross wind."

Balloon trips are a popular form of activity in and around the ski resorts of Colorado and Utah. Federal Aviation Administration officials are to investigate the crash.

Grand Canyon flooded to repair human damage

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A DAWN roar yesterday heralded the opening of four valves to send billions of gallons of water gushing down the Grand Canyon in the hope of repairing some of the damage done to it by humans.

Bruce Babbitt, America's Interior Secretary, spoke of "a new beginning" as he pushed a button, cranked a lever and turned a wheel to open the first valve in the Glen Canyon Dam, which holds back the Colorado River.

Several dozen scientists monitored the experiment to reshape the 33-year-old dam's operations. Onlookers watched from 710ft above as the first 8ft-wide valve released a jet of green water that gushed out several hundred feet. By mid-morning the three other outlets had been opened.

Enough water to supply the whole of Los Angeles for seven months will flow down the canyon during the week-long operation.

The 120 billion gallons which will gush from the dam at the head of the canyon are designed to imitate natural seasonal flooding that used to replenish the canyon's beaches and restore its wildlife habitats.

Water still churns through the spectacular gash in the earth's crust, but whereas for millennia it was warm and

reddish brown — hence the Spanish name *Colorado* — it is now cold and clear.

The silt that used to give the river its colour now builds up behind the dam at the bottom of Lake Powell, while the lake's deep, still water cools steadily before being released through hydro-electric turbines.

The "new" Colorado has been steadily eroding the narrow beaches at the bottom of the canyon instead of renewing them.

Meanwhile, eddies and backwaters that used to support fish and waterfowl have been filled with debris since seasonal flooding stopped with the building of the dam in 1963.

Scientists working for the government agencies that run the Grand Canyon National Park and monitor its ecosystems hope the seven-day flood

will deposit 12 million tonnes of sand on the canyon's beaches. Flowing at an extra 45,000cu ft per second, however, the water could simply strip away what sand remains.

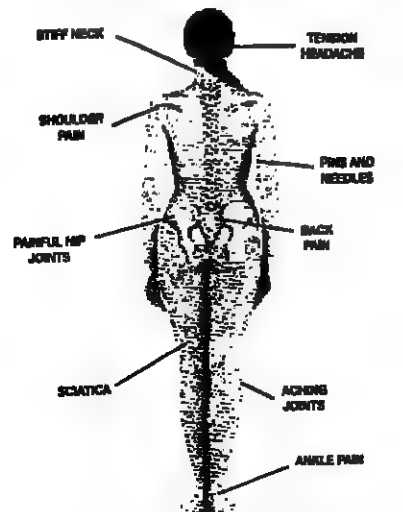
More than 100 observers "in boats and helicopters and hanging off the canyon walls" will try to ensure the experiment does more good than harm, an official said.

Campers and walkers should be in no danger because the water level will rise gradually, by no more than 10ft in all.

But electricity companies which buy power from the dam for six western states have accepted the attempt at reconciliation with nature reluctantly, at best. They regard it as a waste of water that could cost them \$100 million (£65 million) over the next ten years.

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Montana Freemen are seized

BY QUENTIN LETTS

FEDERAL agents moved in on a white militia group in Montana, arresting two of its leaders and surrounding its remote ranch with vehicles.

The action against the "Freemen of Montana" comes after a year-long softly softly surveillance of the group by law enforcers who are anxious to avoid a repetition of the violent end to the siege in Waco, Texas.

The two ring leaders, LeRoy Schweitzer and Daniel Peterson, were seized near the far-flung farmhouse where the heavily-armed group has squatted for several months.

Negotiations are being conducted to bring in the rest of the militia without violence. Before this week's arrests there was a discreet but impressive build-up of government vehicles in the area.

The militia group, which includes nine fugitives, refuses to acknowledge the legitimacy of federal government and set up its own courts and laws in self-styled "Justus Township".

The two ring leaders are charged with advocating violence for political ends, and are being investigated for links to white supremacist groups.

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EUROPEAN PASSENGER SERVICE

Obstacles to Bosnia peace put election plan in peril

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE flight of Serbs from Sarajevo suburbs, the failure so far to release all prisoners of war, and deadlock over the extradition of suspected war criminals have led Western diplomats to give a warning that, unless the ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina is stabilised, the elections planned for this autumn may be postponed or scrapped.

After the Moscow meeting of the Contact Group last weekend, Carl Bildt, the EU representative in Bosnia, has said that all reconstruction aid would stop if remaining prisoners were not released very soon. His warning came as the timetable for a return to democratic politics looks increasingly unrealistic, and talks on the registration and rights of voters are in danger of breaking down.

Diplomats at the Moscow meeting emphasised their determination to hold elections for local and national assemblies and leaders in both halves of Bosnia before the September deadline set by the Dayton accords. However, so complex are the details, and so opposed are the Bosnian and Serb leaders to fulfilling conditions that would allow a free vote, that even officials from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), charged with running the elections, are beginning to doubt whether they can be held.

The main difficulties are the complexity of the elections, which cover municipal, cantonal and national bodies; the question whether refugees should vote in their home towns or places to which they have fled; the need to guarantee freedom of movement for electoral candidates; and access by different opposition groups to state-controlled media. The OSCE is reluctant

to run the polls, but if the 30 election commissions in Bosnia cannot agree on procedure, it may be forced to take over. Whitehall officials said yesterday the obstacles were enormous, but the Western powers were determined that the voting should go ahead, as the entire political settlement depended on them.

The other main problem is the proliferation of parties, with more than 50 in the Bosnian Federation and some 26 in Serbian Bosnia. Most are merely the vehicles for ambitious local personalities, but the OSCE insists on a threshold of 10,000 signatures before any candidate can stand at federation level. It is not easy to get access to television or newspapers for the opposition groups, especially on the Serb side.

Suspected war criminals are forbidden to stand under the Dayton accords, but deadlock over their prosecution may make this hard to enforce. So far few countries have contributed to the estimated cost of £32.6 million for running the elections.

Ken Scott, the British deputy head of the OSCE mission, admits the obstacles are enormous and that there has been little co-operation from the parties. Given the difficulty of crossing ceasefire lines, a national election is probably impossible and candidates will have to stand in either the Serb or the Muslim-Croat entities.

If the OSCE decides the conditions for free elections do not exist, they will be postponed. If that happens, the Nato-led Implementation Force will be under strong pressure to stay, as there will be no other mechanism to enforce the Dayton accords. The Americans, however, have already indicated they will not remain beyond the one-year mandate.

Dr Vukovar doctor who kept Vukovar hospital running during a 1991 siege told UN war crimes hearings yesterday that senior Serb officers ignored her pleas to stop the daily bombardment. Dr Vesna Bosanac was giving evidence against Mile Mrksic, Miroslav Radic and Veselin Slijepcanin, accused of killing 261 Croat men dragged from her hospital after Serb forces overran the town in November 1991.

"Whenever I speak about Vukovar... I never feel upset enough," Dr Bosanac said. Belgrade has refused to hand over the Serb officers. (Reuters)



Comet Hyakutake photographed with a 200mm lens in a 15-minute guided exposure from an observatory in Missouri

Discoverer stays inside as comet sails by

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR



People queue in Moscow to watch the comet. The telescope's owner charged them 2,000 roubles each

WHILE Muscovites queued to pay 2,000 roubles for a minute watching Comet Hyakutake on its closest approach to Earth on Monday night, its discoverer stayed indoors.

"The media are camped out in the mountains where I watch the stars, so I will just stay in tonight," said Yuji Hyakutake, the Japanese amateur astronomer who discovered the comet with binoculars at the end of January.

He found the comet from the mountains near his home in Kogashima Prefecture, on the southernmost main island of Japan. "The sky was cloudy that night, so I was looking into the only clear spot to see through to the stars," he said.

"That is how I found the comet."

British observers so far have been frustrated by cloudy skies, but hope to see the comet before it disappears back into the outer reaches of the solar system, not to return for 17,000 years.

Those who were able to see it on Sunday and Monday say that it was as bright as Sirius, the brightest star in the northern sky. Its tail of glowing gases is an estimated 62,000 miles long.

"There is something about the appearance of a comet," said Brian Marsden, associate director for planetary sciences at the Smithsonian-Harvard Centre for Astrophysics. "I suppose it is the fact that you can have this thing just for a little while and

know it has come from a great distance."

Hyakutake is the brightest comet since Comet West in 1976. It is visible throughout the Northern Hemisphere. It is expected to fade slightly this week, but may well flare brightly again later next month as it makes its closest approach to the Sun.

"Things like this spur people to look up beyond the surface of our tiny little planet here, where we live our tiny little lives running around in tiny little circles," said Alan MacRobert, an associate editor at *Sky and Telescope* magazine in Cambridge, Massachusetts, "and see something of the bigger, wider universe that is out there for us waiting to see if we only look up."

Spain's leading terror suspect arrested on shopping trip

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

SPAIN'S most wanted man, Valentin Lasarte, 32, was being interrogated yesterday after being detained by police in the Basque region of northern Spain.

Señor Lasarte, whose picture features on 20,000 wanted posters around the country, was arrested after a tip-off from a member of the public who recognised him as he shopped at a supermarket in the town of Oñate.

Police chased Señor Lasarte and a female companion to the town square and fired warning shots. Señor Lasarte, unarmed, threw himself to the ground and shouted his name before he was handcuffed.

He is accused of killing two senior Basque politicians, Gregorio Ordóñez, the conservative Popular Party candidate for Mayor of San Sebastián, was shot dead in January 1995 during the run-up to local elections. Fernando Mugica, a lawyer and main Socialist candidate in San Sebastián for the general election held three weeks ago, was shot dead last month.

Mugica's son, who witnessed the murder, recognised Señor Lasarte immediately. Señor Lasarte told him: "Next time it will be you."

The leading member of Eta, the Basque separatist organisation, will be interrogated

until Saturday under special legislation approved by a top Madrid judge. He may be charged with several other killings.

Police hope that Señor Lasarte and Idoia Arrieta, the woman detained with him and a previously unidentified member of Eta, will lead them to other members of his group. Dozens of Basque police patrols fanned out from San Sebastián in the hope of breaking up the "Donosti Comandante Unit".

Eta, whose acronym stands for Basque Homeland and Freedom, has killed more than 760 people since it began its campaign in 1968.

Poll forces Yeltsin to halt Chechen battle

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A LONG and bloody offensive by Russian forces against Chechen rebels will draw to an end in the coming days, when President Yeltsin announces a new peace plan to halt the 15-month conflict in the breakaway republic.

According to General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, the military will halt its operations, characterised in recent weeks by brutal air and artillery attacks.

"Military actions alone cannot stop up the process of resolving the situation in Chechnia," he said in Grozny, the capital of Chechnia. His remarks yesterday were the clearest sign yet about the

contents of Mr Yeltsin's long-awaited peace plan, which the Russian leader will reveal in a "live" address this weekend.

A senior military source was quoted as saying that after the speech the army would begin pulling out of Chechnia.

The change in approach is linked to Russia's presidential poll on July 16. Mr Yeltsin has admitted that without peace in Chechnia his re-election hopes are doomed.

Mr Yeltsin ended his first official visit to Norway yesterday. Both countries agreed to combat nuclear waste pollution, but failed to resolve differences over Nato's expansion to the East. (Reuters)



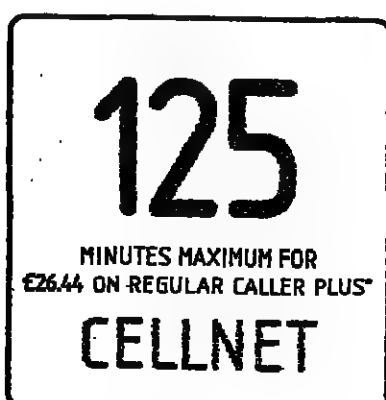
Bildt gave warning of cut-off for Bosnian aid

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Nicotine spray is approved in US for heavy smokers

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A NICOTINE nasal spray was approved yesterday for heavy cigarette smokers in America who are trying to give up. It will go on sale later this year under the name Nicotrol NS and will require a doctor's prescription.

Smokers will be instructed to inhale one or two squirts in each nostril every hour, with never more than five doses an hour. Each dose will contain one milligram of nicotine, about one cigarette's worth. The pump bottle will contain 100 milligrams of nicotine solution and users will be warned that 40 milligrams taken at once can be lethal.

In giving approval, the US Food and Drug Administration indicated concern that some smokers might become addicted to snorting the spray as they were to cigarettes. One desperate woman in a clinical trial watered down her supply of spray to make it last longer before she eventually gave up and returned to cigarettes.

The FDA has asked the spray's developer, Pharmacia and Upjohn, to establish a plan with doctors to monitor any adverse effects. They must also endeavour to keep

the spray out of the hands of teenagers under 18, who are not supposed to use it.

In tests, the spray's success rate was no better than for nicotine gum or the patch. Studies of 730 smokers found that a quarter of those who received it gave up cigarettes for at least a year while only 13 per cent of those on a placebo managed to stop smoking.

Smokers' brains will absorb less nicotine from the spray than from cigarettes, according to Richard Hurt, director of the nicotine dependency centre at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. He explained that

nicotine inhaled through cigarettes goes straight to the heart and is pumped to the brain in five heartbeats while Nicotrol circulates through the blood before reaching the heart and the brain.

The spray is being launched at a time when the US tobacco industry is under intense scrutiny by the Government amid allegations that tobacco executives lied to Congress in denying that nicotine was addictive.

President Clinton joined the fray this week, describing cigarettes as the number one health threat to young people.

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Easy pieces for fast women



Donna Karan and her customers are celebrating ten years of understated dressing for women on the move

When designer Donna Karan unveils her latest designs in New York this week she will have extra cause to celebrate. Her company is now ten years old. Karan founded her business on little more than a foundation garment itself, taking her inspiration for her stretch jersey body from Martha Graham's dance leotard. Like the cleverest of concepts, it was an achingly simple idea: sometimes wrapped with an additional length of fabric which doubled as a

pareo skirt, or with a crisp white shirt attached. "At the time I didn't think of it as revolutionary," says Karan. Fashion myth would have it that Karan's career began when the designer asked herself "What do I really need in my wardrobe?" In response she created her own line of clothing, a wardrobe full of understated easy pieces which fitted together. Uncomplicated, modern and luxurious, befitting a fast-moving female on Seventh Avenue, it soon clicked with high-powered women executives

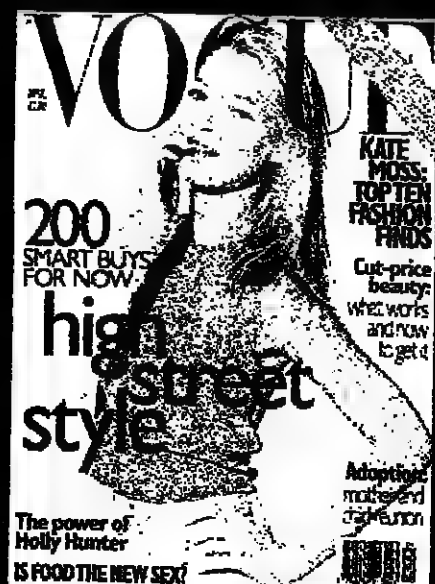
the world over. A loyal clientele was formed. Karan's label and her customers have grown up together because, the designer says, she understands their needs. They are the same as her own. As she gets older she believes this to be even more important. "Probably more so, because there are more things to think about," says Karan, who describes herself as a problem solver. "Your body shifts." Karan is all too aware that women are inundated with too many clothes. She calls it "product pollution". "Fashion is going too fast," she says. "Everyone wants new, new, new, and the customer becomes very confused." This prompted Karan



ABOVE: Kristen McMenamy, model, wears black silk and tulle evening gown with vest top
ABOVE LEFT: Benedetta Barzini, journalist, wears beaded evening slip dress with low scoop neckline
LEFT: Anh Duong, artist, wears tailored single-breasted trouser suit with narrow-leg pants
RIGHT: Kristen McMenamy wears satin capri pants and camel double-breasted cashmere overcoat
Photographs by HERB RITTS
from Modern Souls, a celebration of Donna Karan clothes modelled by her customers and friends (published by Distributed Art Publishers, available price £39.95 from Harrods, SW1, Dillons, W1, Zwemmer, W1 and selected book stores nationwide)



Vogues view of high street style



April issue Out now

Fashion journalist of the year

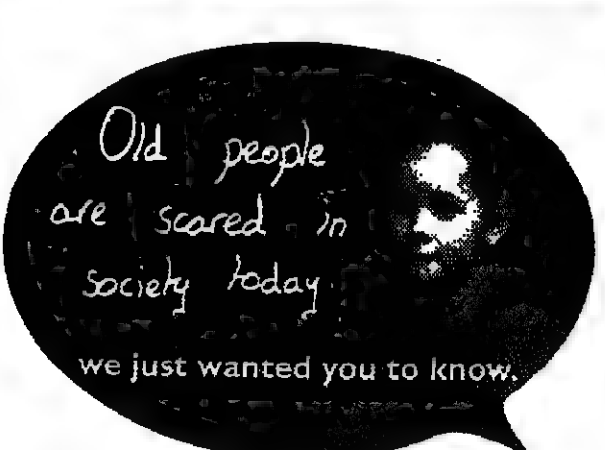


IAIN R. WEBB

to introduce the Essentials collection, so that a woman can always go into a store and buy that black suit or white shirt. "Great items to add to what you already own," she says. "You don't have to start over each season."

Every season she reappraises the collection. It is not the same collection you saw three years ago — a lapel on a jacket may be wider, a trouser narrower, a hemline shorter. There are always new things added to the line. "The things women like and want more of." This season they include a leather jacket cut like a motorcycle jacket but in the softest of skins, a little sweater ("a sleek finish under a jacket or to top a grand ballgown skirt"), a tuxedo jacket which works worn over a black dress or as part of a suit, a knit rib dress ("the newest foundation"), and the ubiquitous white shirt.

As fashion in the 1990s gives women more choice, what does Donna Karan offer? "I like to have a system of dressing to make life easy. Fabrics which can go from day to evening. Clothes which are packable, a pair of shoes to go with anything. It's no longer about long or short. Clothes need to be comfortable, flexible and functional."



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CATCH

Every day of the working week, I sit in my consulting room listening to people in distress. At the centre of their concerns is a wish to be living their lives unencumbered by chronic anxieties, insecurities, despair, rages or depressions. Although some media coverage of psychotherapy might suggest otherwise, therapy is not a soft option, a kind of massage of the soul, a self-indulgent 50 minutes, or a faddish part of the lives of the well-heeled and well-educated. Rather, it is sought when other means for change have been exhausted: when friends, families, lovers and teachers have been unable to provide the means to address the pain that so troubles the person.

Of late, we are used to family relationships being used for political gain by politicians who, misunderstanding either wilfully, mendaciously or ignorantly the complex texture of emotional life, make a rhetorical call for a return to family values — to a presumed two-parent idyll that never was from within which most of my patients were raised. The family is presented as a harmonious, supportive unit in which conflict is managed, responsibility taken on readily, and in which parents parent.

All the economic pressures, the shifts in gender relations and the worries about work are miraculously meant to be absorbed and processed in the family. The

Why therapy is not a soft option

family is both bulwark against society's sewage. The tensions between parents and children; between the sexes; the demands on women to care for the elderly and the young; the restructuring of work; the very things that make individuals and groups of individuals unstable, instead of being engaged within the political debate, are given a slight of hand — or worse, even a dose of ideology — to cover them up.

"Not us," say the politicians. "It's the lack of family values that's to blame."

A part of this nostalgic call by politicians to the family speaks to us and acts as a temporary balm, because the search for certainty, for stability, for security, is something we can all relate to. We crave these in the face of political, economic, and social uncertainty and we crave these in the face of lives lived with insufficient emotional sustenance.

But what sense can we make of our desires today? The image of the family unit is the gossamer over which we stretch our needs for attachment, for intimacy and autonomy. Where our politicians and policymakers are inclined to look at the forms of attachment,

we do well to look rather at the content of attachments. Where we fantasise stable relationships, hearts-and-flowers romances, we would do well to look rather at what intimate human engagement requires and supplies; what makes relationships work.

Most importantly, we need to recognise that one of our human dilemmas is that relationships can be especially adhesive when they are patently destructive. Part of what psychoanalysis allows us to see is that where the early environment can provide relationships in which the baby can have its initiatives responded to with care, when the needs of the child can be held in mind, the child grows up with the emotional base to be a partner in creating and maintaining attachments which are secure and stable. It can manage inside itself the consequences of disappointment, of things going wrong.

Where early life fails, the individual grows up experiencing a lack of self-regard along a continuum from insecurity to self-hate. The hurtful relationship cannot be given up but is like a manacle binding the person to the emotional pit of that relationship. To put it starkly: if good relationships in early life incline one to seek out



by Susie Orbach

their repetition, so does the influence of unsatisfactory relationships. We are disposed to repeat what is, even if that has been felt to be insufficient, for that is how inside ourselves we experience relationship. We know no other.

The extent to which one has been let down by a paternal relationship is the extent to which, in the unconscious, that parent is still much wanted. Meanwhile, in the outside world, the experience of unsatisfactory relating will tilt the person unwittingly to seek, attract and confirm that experi-

ence in new relationships, even as they try to challenge it. The channels for receiving a more wholesome relationship are closed. Bad relationships can't easily be given up. They are hard to digest and are done with. They linger and fester, unleashing emotional havoc on others, binding up psychic energy so that engagement in the world is often reactive rather than creative.

In trying to build enabling relationships in a Risk Society so that we contribute and shape that society rather than feel ourselves to be constantly reactive, blown off course and rushing to catch up with it, we require a base of emotional security. Emotional security is the basis of autonomy. Particularly in times of rapid unmapped change, the capacity to embrace what is, to think and to act out of that thoughtfulness, depends upon the internalisation of enabling attachments.

One thing that skews our relationships is our gender arrangements. For years the myth was that women were dependent and men independent. But what underpins men and supports their apparent autonomy? What makes it possible for men to feel able to take on challenges in the world, in so far as they have to take a personal authority, to feel unbur-

dened by deep insecurities? What emotional services have men historically received that have sustained their sense of independence?

What twist has allowed women to be seen as emotionally dependent when it is obvious that their role has been to provide a relationship on which others may depend without anticipating such a relationship for themselves?

I am not arguing that men are dependent and women not. I am suggesting that in any consideration of how we build quality relationships, and the means to adapt to the challenges of the Risk Society, the question of the disposition of emotional dependency needs and emotional capacities between women and men needs to be confronted and the issues of autonomy and dependency, and their relationship to one another understood and refashioned so emotional resilience is more widely available.

We need not remain mystified about what makes enabling relationships. Relationships that enable are those which allow a full experience of the other, which allow for a range of emotional responses to be registered rather than interfered with. They don't

consist of carving up emotions and letting men carry one set and women another. Adults who can ask of one another how they are and stick around for a genuine reply without trying to fix, transform, deny or ridicule the responses they get, are providing enabling relationships.

Such relating depends on a capacity to resonate with another emotionally without being swamped, to empathise without feeling impelled to make better, so that there is space for those responses so often disregarded because they fail the test of drama. Enabling relationships depend upon an equal emotional exchange and a certain emotional fluency. Enabling relationships make it possible for us to hold contradictory feelings simultaneously, rather than retreat into emotional fundamentalism where all is good or bad or love and hate and where scapegoating — projecting — dominates our relation to self and others.

The capacity to manage complex emotional lives is a political issue. It makes for a robust population which can think about the wider political issues rather than being emotionally manipulated by them — one which can refuse the false conflation of the private and the public and which can open up new issues in the public agenda.

● Abridged from a talk given yesterday to the Institute of Public Policy Research conference on Risk Society

Everybody loves a loser

Where's the beef? You decide

It must be excruciating to watch the Oscars from a chair in the audience, but from the comfort of our own sofas at home it makes perfect television

Why would any of us watch the Oscars? I'm not sure anyone really minds who wins what, or even, despite the pretence of press interest in the subject, who wears what. But it seems the Academy Awards ceremony holds some sway over here.

There might not be enough enthusiasm to keep people up all night watching the full, live, unexpurgated version as it is beamed from a narcissistically quivering LA but — and this seems to be odder, insomniac fanaticism being somewhat easier to understand than weary concern — a number of people I spoke to yesterday morning told me, unashamedly, that they wouldn't be listening to or watching the news all day just so they wouldn't find out who got what before the BBC showed the highlights last night. One begins to fear for one's friends.

Nevertheless, I did watch it, the whole damn shoot. And although I might reassure myself that it was all in the line of duty, I began to see the appeal. For the British audience, the lure is twofold. In the first instance we see our worst impressions of Americans in general, and actors in particular, confirmed; and in the second — and this is the truly more pleasurable aspect — we get to see people lose, publicly and big time.

Those motivations apart, at least for the moment, the Awards ceremony is ideally

suited to television. It's pretty and bright and vacuous and ephemeral. In fact, the whole production seems to sit more happily on the screen in the corner of the room than it does in the cavernous theatrical spaces of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. There, the actors seem to get lost: they belong to celluloid, not to the stage. And



Nigella Lawson

so to fill the space, and the gap, fashion shows and cabaret turns are produced. Films are about close-up, about projecting people several times their natural size. Even though the television shrinks them, at least we see them as they should be, filling a screen; thus a reassuring air of unreality is restored.

To watch the actual event from a chair in the auditorium must be excruciating. From the sofa at home we can at least wallow in the agreeable awfulness. That, of course, is what the Oscars are all about. We expect everyone to be at their schmalzty worst. Strangely enough the British, so prone to embarrassment, seem to like being embarrassed. We watch those acceptance speeches cringing, peeping over cushions held up for notional protection, and yet we wouldn't watch if it weren't for the prospect of our being embarrassed.

Truth to tell, this year things were looking a bit lacklustre on that front. Whoopi Goldberg is too acerbic a personality to invite self-indulgent thespian navel-gazing. Her opening riff about the ribbons people had asked her to wear (red for AIDS awareness, purple for breast cancer awareness, milk-white for "mad cow" awareness and so forth) was about as anti-Hollywood as you could get and still get a round of applause.

But as the show progressed, the stars began to show their true colours. Mira Sorvino — best supporting actress in Woody Allen's *Mighty Aphrodite* — turned in a sterling acceptance speech, culminating in a sentimental paean of praise for her father, Paul, who was then shown weeping openly and blottedly in his seat. Best actress (and how) Susan Sarandon, who is always written about as an admirable type of anti-hottie, was full of dazed oh-my-oh-mys, not being able to get over her surprise at even being "included among such fine actors" (Nicolas Cage later expressed the same modest sentiment), and ended her speech: "May we all in our homes and in our hearts find a way to non-violently end violence and heal."

But it's not surprising that Hollywood is sentimental, it's built on sentiment. Death must therefore be emotionally venerated. There isn't quite an award for Best Dead Person but there is a roll call, throatily intoned, of "Academy mem-



Best actress Susan Sarandon hoped we would all "in our hearts find a way to non-violently end violence and heal"

bers who have left us since Academy Awards night last year", and some defunct members get more applause than others. One can't help feeling, however, that Louis Malle's high rating (justly earned, that I don't dispute) isn't more of an indication that the Hollywood audience wanted to show they knew how to appreciate an art-house movie director.

At other times, the audience — that's to say, the actors — behaved quite breathtakingly. Despite Goldberg's cynicism, Hollywood, a reactionary town, has always been strangely insistent on showing a degree of liberal compassion. Caring about the right things and showing you care is important. It wants to be right-

We expect everyone to be at their schmalzty worst and watch the speeches from behind cushions

Potter given a standing ovation for being "the first black Academy Award winner" (though in the light of Jesse Jackson's input this year, perhaps a heightened sensitivity is to be expected). But it seems to me grossly patronising — and, for what it's worth, distinctly unPC — to clap someone for being paralysed or black.

It would be wrong to say that we enjoy the discomfiture of the actors, since none of them showed any sign of knowing that it might have been seen to be discomfited. But at least we know that by the end of the evening there have been more losers than winners. And that seems to keep us at home happy.

THERE'S SOMETHING I don't understand: why does this Government, which has always been keen to show itself the party that believes in choice, so evidently believe we have no real right to choose to stop eating British beef?

However infinitesimal the risks (and I'm sure the only reason we feel them to be greater than they probably are is because we've been led to believe they were less than they are), nothing alters the fact that we are perfectly free to eat what we want, or not eat what we don't want. We don't need to justify ourselves.

People do justify themselves, though, and it's because they are afraid of being thought wimps. Thus people are actually boasting, for example, of having had steak for lunch. I don't quite get it myself, but then I have never understood why people seem to think the stronger the curry they can put away the better light it puts them in.

The idea that eating beef is macho is hardly new, of course, but this boasting is more than that. It's as if showing a glorious unconcern for what is troubling others — the little people — shows an aristocratic spirit, shows bravery. The risk is small, so it is petty of us, it is implied, even to heed it. I see the point of running risks if we have something to gain thereby, but this is rather a different matter.

Anyway, if one is worried about eating beef why do so? If to eat it gives us more anxiety than pleasure, then not to is hardly a deprivation. Our duty is not foremost to the farmers of Great Britain, as the Government might have been wise to recognise. My position here is that I'll eat organic beef, or as good as, if it comes from my butcher, Mr Lidgate. In other words, I trust him and he trusts his farmers, which is how it should be.

But why anyone should feel under pressure to pretend an unfelt insouciance is beyond me: it's not, after all, as if we trusted the Government.

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Alan Coren



■ Our children may outsmart us — but there is a flaw

Cocked as those of all true Times people currently are, your ear may be amazed to hear that it is *nine* which has just heard the sound of the cuckoo. It should not be amazed: there is nothing odd about my hearing the sound so early, for this was no ordinary cuckoo. It was a Midwich Cuckoo, and I hear it all the time. I hear it whenever there is any technological advance.

You will recall that John Wyndham, having nearly frightened the life out of us with the idea of plants who were smarter than we were, went on completely to frighten the life out of us with the idea of children who were smarter than we were. For, like the triffids before them, the toddlers of Midwich village had been transmuted into smart-arse monsters against whom grown-ups did not stand a chance.

Could Wyndham have found a more potent dread to tap? Was there ever a parent who, even as it preened over the latest manifestation of offspring cleverness, didn't experience an uneasy twinge that here was something which any moment now could be too hot to handle? And was that ever truer than it is today, when a generation of children ready for the next generation of computers leaves wallowing in its wake a generation of adults not yet ready for the last one?

That is why I have just heard the cry of the Midwich Cuckoo at its shrillest. I heard it the moment after our radiant Heritage Secretary announced that she was considering the V-chip, which would empower parents to delete from the TV set anything they didn't want their kids to watch; and where I heard it was in the instant response of parents terror-stricken that their kids would be able to handle the V-chip far more cleverly than they ever could. Not only would they be able to fiddle with it to release all the sex and violence they wanted, they would be able to fiddle with it to exact a terrible revenge: adult screens would go blank in the middle of *Brookside*. *Pride and Prejudice* would suddenly turn into *Beavis and Butt-head*. Jeremy Paxman would swivel in his seat to find himself facing a satiated Milanese housewife pulling her suspender-belt off. Stick this chip into the family box, wailed the parents, and it will immediately become Pandora's.

Is there, then, nothing to be done? I should not be here if there were. I may not have a complete answer, but I believe I have enough of one to hope that parents may now spend less time staring sleepless at the ceiling, wondering how long it will take their brood to work out their Pin numbers, bypass their phone-lock codes, spring their safe combinations, deduce their PC passwords, and pull any other techno-stunt necessary to transfer the family jewels to a Cayman account so electronically covert as to be inaccessible to anyone over the age of nine. I believe this because someone of the age of nine came to stay last weekend, and, by sheer coincidence, I found a flaw in his technology which might just be the salvation of us all.

I did not, mind, find it for some time. I took him to see the techno-wondrous *Toy Story* and asked if he'd enjoyed it. He explained how they'd made it. We went home, and he did unimpaired things with my computer I didn't even know it did, and then when I tried to, it didn't. A bit later, he spotted a copy of *Captain Hook* on my video shelf and I said he could take it, and he said he wouldn't need to take it if I had a second VCR, and I had, so he did something with wires, and after that we had two copies.

And then he wanted to call home. I pointed to the phone. He looked at me. The phone has a dial. I showed him how to dial. He couldn't do it. The dial took so long to return to rest that he lost track of which of the 11 numbers he had just dialled. He was a keypad kid. And I suddenly knew how to thwart those who have grown up with the new technology. You hit them with the old technology. He could not call Grand Cayman on this phone, even if he twiggled my Pin number; and if, moreover, I stuck to a cheque-book, I would not even need a Pin number for him to twig.

And the V-chip? When I was nine, my father bought our first TV set. It had big walnut doors, with a keyhole. My father kept the key in his pocket. Too much *Muffin the Mule* might be bad for you.



Use and abuse of science

Public respect for scientists has been sacrificed during the BSE fiasco

Do not laugh. This has been National Science Week. Scientists across the land have been spreading the message of "good news" that science is alive and exciting. There have been 5,000 events. The Internet has hummed. But while the publicists have fiddled, Rome has burned. Rarely has the role of the scientist in public life looked more sad, or public trust in his methods been more fragile.

Last year, I detected a new strain in what is now Britain's annual food-scare ritual. It is called Mad Politician Disease, closely related to another virulent strain called Mad Newspaper Syndrome. Both are now raging unchecked, and the infection has spread to Brussels. (Only a cull of the national herd of politicians and journalists offers hope of cure.) What is not clear is the relation of this phenomenon to last week's outbreak of Scientist Inferiority Complex. This too is now rampant. When I saw that the Trade Department had given over its Victoria Street basement for an activity called "Ready, Set, Go", I knew the epidemic had taken hold.

In the House of Commons last week, the Agriculture and Health Secretaries, Douglas Hogg and Stephen Dorrell, both struggled to dump responsibility for the possible slaughter of thousands of cows on the shoulders of science. Don't ask us what has gone wrong, they said with one voice, ask the scientists. It would, they clearly hoped, be a verbal hop and a skip to, don't blame us, blame them. Ministers were only doing what they were told.

Last December the scientists told them that beef was safe. There was no evidence of a link between a dwindling outbreak of cattle BSE and a few random cases of human CJD. They put the adjective "inconceivable" before the much-abused noun, risk. Ministers took their word for it and cheered. Now, on the basis of the same clinical evidence (or lack of it), the scientists say that they are not so sure. They have put the word *inconceivable* in a test-tube, added a coincidence or two, heated them to hysteria point, and produced a rather different adjective: *extremely small*. To a scientist, this might be no more than a matter of experimental linguistics. To a politician, it freezes bone to marrow and drains blood from every cell. How big is extremely small? A mere adverb qualifies the adjective small, but a chasm divides it from in-

conceivable. What is the difference? We don't know, say the scientists. Spongiform encephalopathologists are not required to have English A level. Nor do they include probability theorists in their number. After last Sunday's meeting they gave five reasons why they could not quantify the apparent shift in risk since last December. These include the small number of humans infected with what appears a new strain, the resulting lack of data on "infectivity", and the large species barrier between cattle and humans. The implication was that the public should merely know that of ten new cases of CJD in Britain, seven

than Aids" screamed the *Daily Mail*. Cartoonists had a field day with mad cows, psychiatric vets, and fastidious cannibals. The Labour Party had French farmers cheering as it demanded the removal of British beef from school menus. The gleeful response of our European "partners" to this discomfiture is still running.

Pre-eminence cause for the failure must be the politicisation of what was at root a matter of statistics. Had ministers kept their fingers out of the pie, the integrity of the advice given them might have been more widely respected. Mr Dorrell now turns up to what seem like hourly media interviews with a scientist at his side, like Don Quixote with Sancho Panza. It is hopeless to plead that the scientist is "independent" when he is patently there to save the minister's bacon. As the antics this week of both Mr Harman and Paddy Ashdown have shown, parliamentary flesh and blood cannot treat a minister as a mere conduit for "independent advice". He must be opposed. If that means rubbishising science, too bad.

This is a disaster for the reputation of science in government. The National Farmers' Union indicated yesterday that the BSE affair had gone "beyond science". This means that the union is happy that enough is being done to eradicate BSE in Britain, but regards enough as no longer sufficient. A "gesture" is apparently required to restore confidence. The gesture may include the mass slaughter of perfectly healthy animals and huge financial compensation. Like some primitive tribe, we are expected to inculcate our property to propitiate the raging gods.

The Government should plainly have left the chairman of the spongiform advisory committee and its own Chief Medical Officer to handle last week's terminological adjustment. The matter had nothing to do with party politics. If the Agriculture Ministry was dilatory,

as has been claimed, in enforcing the ban on scrapie-infected cattle feed after 1989, that merits a select committee inquiry. Last week, the issue was what applied science had to say about risk. On that at least, science was clear: the risk in eating beef remained so tiny as not to merit further action on anyone's part, including the Government's.

If ministers believed that this was a scientific rather than a political judgment, why did they not let the scientists talk for themselves? The very fact of ministers making the announcement tainted the independence of the advice. So did the venue. I cannot imagine a worse place to discuss the shifting nuances of public health than the chamber of the House of Commons. It is like adjusting a watch with a monkey wrench. After watching Ms Harman and Mr Dorrell abusing each other on Monday, I was not surprised when Brussels concluded that that enough was enough, and French Customs turned back British beef lorries. I imagine they would do the same to British politicians.

Mr Dorrell and Mr Hogg may personally sweet reason in this matter. Their actions have been open and their judgments fair. But the result of their hijacking of science to the cause of government is hysteria, panic and possibly huge expense. The system for conveying important information to the public has collapsed and led to grotesque distortion. British farming — and public administration — has been humiliated.

Science did not fail. It bravely stated the extent of its uncertainty. What failed was the public reception of the message of science. Rectifying this has nothing to do with more science teaching or more science funding or more national science weeks. Such public relations merely makes science seem paranoid and intellectually childish. The failure has been in the response of politics to the actions of science.

Last week the Government intervened to "nationalise" what most countries would have left as a non-partisan, industrial and public health matter. The reason is that modern British government cannot keep its hands off anything. The price will be paid not by farmers or ministers but by taxpayers. It will be paid in a diminished public respect for science. That is most unfair. The remedy lies in scientists recovering sovereignty over their own judgments, rather than dancing round maypoles while governments toss coins.

Simon Jenkins

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A new model ministry

The culture of the Forces is in flux, says

Sue Cameron

What a time they are having in Whitehall. Racism, sodomy, missing art treasures — and that is just in the Ministry of Defence. Tomorrow the ministry will unveil plans to counteract racism, in response to a report by the Commission for Racial Equality, which has uncovered evidence of discrimination within the Services in general and in the Household Cavalry in particular. Meanwhile, service chiefs and senior defence civil servants are wondering whether the European Court of Human Rights will overturn their ban on homosexuals in the Forces — a ban so draconian that it deters a man for having homosexual tendencies even if he does not betray this by word or deed.

Today, however, the Defence Ministry's most senior civil servant, Richard Mottram, will face a grilling from MPs not on one of these major concerns for his £22 billion department, but about £100,000 worth of prints and paintings which have gone missing, apparently during reorganisations in the 1980s. The irony is that the ministry can expect woeful publicity on all these fronts just as it is trying to rethink some of its outdated practices. Its efforts underline the difficulties of managing change in a world of publicity and political correctness.

The Ministry of Defence shows how much-maligned watchdog bodies such as the Commission for Racial Equality can improve the conduct of institutions. The commission's report was prompted by an incident when a man was seconded from the Royal Engineers to the Household Cavalry — and was promptly sent back again when he was found to be black. It is believed to show that while non-whites make up around 5 per cent of the general population, they account for less than 1.5 per cent of the Armed Forces, and well under 1 per cent of the Household Cavalry.

Privately, officials admit many in the ministry never really believed that equality legislation applied to them. As a result, monitoring of the recruitment and treatment of people from ethnic minorities was lax or worse. Class attitudes have militated against racial fairness in certain regiments, where officers were recruited because they had been to a particular public school or because they were the fathers' sons. But it would of course be perverse to stop recruiting from a school that has provided good people in the past, especially as all who are accepted have to pass the entrance exams.

There is evidence that sometimes people have been steered away from certain regiments with the best of intentions. It is easy to see how black recruits might be discouraged from joining the Household Division for fear that they would be picked on. And soldiers are notoriously resistant to political correctness, victimising anyone who stands out, whether for being black, Welsh or short-sighted. Senior officers in some units have said that if they are to have black recruits they want two or three, not one. But many people would think that approach discriminatory too.

The ministry's new measures may not go as far as some in the race relations industry would like, but they will mark the start of a real drive to change attitudes. They are expected to include the appointment of race relations advisers to all units to guide commanding officers; leaflets for all members of the Forces, spelling out the equal opportunities policy; new complaints procedures; and much tighter monitoring of the recruitment and promotion of members of ethnic minorities.

Whether the changes would have come about without pressure from the commission is doubtful. It may be a salutary lesson to those who deride such bodies that they can enforce reform in areas where it is badly needed and where it might not otherwise be brought about at all. At the same time, senior people in the ministry deserve credit for deciding to update some antiquated attitudes.

Racial equality is not the only area where they are making the attempt, although when it comes to the treatment of homosexuals and lesbians the ministry should be congratulated more for the thoroughness of its research than for the result. It was again an outsider — a senior judge — who suggested a review of the Forces' attitude to homosexuals, although the court upheld their right to discriminate against them.

The ministry duly undertook research, which involved sending questionnaires to 15 per cent of the 200,000 members of the Armed Forces, finding out how America's "don't ask, don't tell" practice works, and producing a 400-page report. The decision of the Defence Council — composed of ministers, civil servants and military chiefs — was to ban homosexuals, whether overt or discreet.

The justification was that the research shows that 60 per cent of service personnel oppose a "don't ask, don't tell" policy, with 20 per cent in favour and 20 per cent expressing no opinion. The ministry feared that such a policy would offend civilian homosexuals, who would see it as hypocritical or condemnatory. The ban on overt homosexuality is understandable, whether you agree with it or not; but to outlaw "don't ask, don't tell" lest it raise suspicions about individuals is risible, and there is a good chance the European Court of Human Rights will overturn the ban. It will be interesting to see how far the ministry will be prepared to go in revamping attitudes if that happens.

Sacred cows

BEFORE Harriet Harman kills off our national herd, I feel she should be appraised of the bovine news from India. The World Hindu Council in Delhi will meet today to consider offering religious asylum to some of our unwanted beasts.

Hindus are appalled by the prospect of a national slaughter: they believe that cows should be treated as members of the family. "Every part of the cow is medicinal," explains Giriraj Kishore, the Secretary General of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad Party, or World Hindu Council. "Its milk is medicinal. Its dung is anti-radioactive and a germ-killer — am using cow-dung soap and it has removed my itch." (Must try that one.)

"We are meeting tomorrow," he goes on, "to decide what to do with this British problem. We can send representation to Britain to argue that the cow should be saved. And we will consider offering some of the British cows sacred refuge in India."

The notion has its precedent, of course. In 1985, *The Times* of India reported that Mr Muni Shushil Kumar, of the World Parliament of Religions, was planning to buy

260,000 EEC cattle, earmarked for slaughter because of tighter milk quotas, and ship them to India to make them sacred.

Mr Kumar's plan slipped at the first cattle grid because of financial difficulties, but there is excited out-chewing now in the Northamptonshire byre of my Uncle Roddy. I'm told that the plaintive lowing of his favourite cow, Harriet, (no beauty but a strap-



At home with the animals

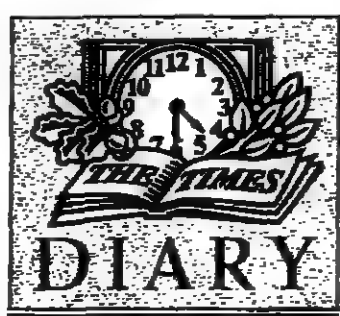
ping milker, whose calves go to selective organic farms) has caught the attention of the local MP, Tony Marlow.

Eddie's song

CELEBRITY fans of *The Archers* are dusting down their ten-gallon hats for an of hooedown on the Grange Farm ranch. A Country Music album being recorded by Eddie Grundy (Trevor Harrison) has stars of the music world in a delirious spin.

The far-from-rural crooner Elvis Costello has already donated a song for Harrison to record, and negotiations with other stars are advanced. "We are talking Sir Cliff Richard and Billy Connolly. Our people are negotiating with their people," says a hipster from De-mon Records, which is producing the album. Both Sir Cliff and Connolly are *Archers* addicts. At his wedding to the actress Pamela Stephenson on the island of Fiji, Connolly sought out a native choir, which sung out the theme tune to a bagpipe accompaniment.

● Emma Thompson's gratefully gushing performance as she collected an Oscar for best screenplay delighted us Brits but found little favour with Ethan Hawke, the young American film star. "I hate Emma Thompson," he



snarled. "I think she and Glenn Close should get together and do a movie called 'We Simper Smugly' — co-starring Robin Williams."

Freeze...

THE BEEF scare has contributed to an atmosphere of fear at the BBC. Latest casualty: corporate fridges. A memorandum informs staff that, from next month, each department will be asked to pay £2 to have its fridges cleaned. Earthy types who choose not to avail themselves of the service will be required to sign a disclaimer absolving the BBC of blame.

Roadblock

LORD PALUMBO, who reduced the price of his Berkshire home, the Bagnor Manor estate, from

£10 million to nearer £6 million because he couldn't sell it, may at last have hooked a buyer for his farmland.

His Georgian mansion is proving virtually impossible to sell because it stands just a Scotch egg's throw from the planned Newbury bypass. But I understand that the farmland (some 1,000 acres) and the river are about to change hands for about £2.5 million.

● Hearty congratulations to Lady Anne Brewis, daughter of the 3rd Earl of Selborne, who celebrated her 85th birthday yesterday. She has at last completed her epic, *The Flora of Hampshire*, a work that has been more than 40 years in gestation.

Wheeled off

POOR Sir John Wheeler, MP for Westminster North. His government post, as junior Northern Ireland Minister, may have put the kibosh on his parliamentary career. He cannot find a constituency to take him on after his present one disappears at the next election. It is too much for local parties, it seems, to adopt their candidate a man said to rank third on the IRA's hit-list.

Wheeler, 55, is the only minister not to have emerged with a new



"I'm sorry - you can only have Plasticine bones for the moment"

seat from the chicken-run that as sparked by last summer's constituency changes. Peter Lilley, Nicholas Soames and Sir George Young head the list of those who managed successfully to snaffle safe new seats.

"It does put the constituencies off when the Security Services have to sweep the meeting rooms and search selection committees," explains Peter Randall-Johnson, Wheeler's party agent. Showing the tenacity that has made him a hit in Northern Ireland, Wheeler is still trying.

P.H.S

OBITUARIES

SENATOR EDMUND MUSKIE

Senator Edmund Muskie, US Secretary of State, 1980-81, and Senator from Maine, 1959-80, died yesterday aged 81. He was born on March 28, 1914.

IT WAS Ed Muskie's misfortune to be most widely remembered for an incident that really counted for very little, given the general range of his career. In March 1972, while campaigning for the Democratic nomination in New Hampshire, he broke down in tears while referring to scandalous stories that had surfaced about his wife's alleged drinking.

The vision of a supposedly strong man weeping was sufficient to wreck his hopes of securing his party's nomination — just the result the Nixon White House "dirty tricks" department had counted on in planting the stories in the first place. But, in reality, Muskie had lost little. Richard Nixon never needed Watergate or any of its associated activities in order to win that election. By getting knocked out of the contest long before even his party's own convention Muskie simply saved himself the martyr's crown that eventually landed on the brow of George McGovern who, in November 1972, went down to one of the most ignominious defeats in the history of American politics.

Ed Muskie first emerged as a major figure in US politics as Hubert Humphrey's vice-presidential candidate in 1968. That, too, was hardly an enviable inheritance. After the confusion, chaos and internecine fighting which disfigured that year's Chicago convention — and the awkward, ambivalent relationship of the party's standard-bearer to the outgoing President, Lyndon Johnson — no one gave much for the Democratic ticket's chances.

But in the campaign Muskie succeeded in making a perceptible personal hit. He dominated the radical student crowds, while also impressing the average American voter with his calm, his immense height, his honesty and his carefully publicised Polish origins. His freedom from the vulgarities which American commentators detected in the other political candidates (including his own running-mate) made him the clear favourite of the American press.

The only curious aspect was that anyone should have been surprised at such an outcome. His record as a vote-winner was, after all, there for



all to see. Single-handed he had captured and held the traditionally Republican state of Maine — "As Maine goes, so goes Vermont" was the wag's joke at the time of the Roosevelt 1936 landslide — in the Democratic column, first as Governor in 1954, then as Senator four years later. His rise in the Senate had been as steady, as unflashy and as solidly based as his rise in Maine politics.

In the confusion which followed Richard Nixon's narrow victory in the 1968 election he thus seemed the natural candidate for the Democratic nomination in 1972. For some time that appearance was borne out by the opinion polls which made him by far the strongest figure among the potential Democratic candidates, excepting only Senator Edward Kennedy.

But, even before his crying in the snow, actual experience on the hustings had revealed how unreliable such polls can be. He proved both physically and temperamentally unsuited to the constant public exposure of the campaign. His initial successes were distinctly underwhelming —

and long before (as he always claimed) the snowflakes got into his eyes in New Hampshire, he must have privately recognised that he was not cast by nature for the role of heading a national ticket.

It was probably, indeed, his rueful, acknowledgement of this defect in his make-up as a politician which caused him barely to hesitate when in April 1980 he was offered an alternative opportunity of executive service by becoming President Carter's Secretary of State. Again, however, the circumstances were hardly propitious. His predecessor at the State Department, Cyrus Vance, had just resigned in protest against the failure of the White House to consult him over the ill-fated desert raid (designed to rescue the US Iranian hostages); and, although Muskie asked for, and got, assurances that he would be allowed to be his own man — and not just a front-of-house manager for Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski — he must have foreseen that the chances were that he would play only a limited and lame-duck season at Foggy Bottom.

The only thing, in fact, that could have made sense of the appointment — and, indeed, justified the sacrifice of Muskie's Senate seat (which went to his former executive assistant, George Mitchell) — would have been if Jimmy Carter had gone on to secure a second term. But this was not something that was under Carter's control, still less Muskie's. If anyone, indeed, was calling the shots, it was Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran who eventually decided to release the 52 American hostages on the very day Ronald Reagan was inaugurated (and only after he had taken the oath, while Muskie still sat vainly waiting for news in the State Department).

His nine-month period as the senior Cabinet officer of the United States may have provided an honourable postscript to Muskie's public career; but it hardly supplied it with an upbeat ending.

Edmund Sixtus Muskie was born in Rumford, Maine, the son of a Polish immigrant tailor who anglicised his name from Marczewski. His career was a classic example of the poor immigrant's son who makes good. Educated in the public high schools and at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, he graduated *cum laude* in 1936, won a scholarship to Cornell Law School where he again graduated *cum laude* in 1939, being admitted to practise at the Massachusetts Bar that same year and in Maine the year after.

With America's entry into the war he enlisted in the US Navy and served as an engineering officer in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres. In 1946 he returned to practise law in Waterville, Maine, and in 1948 he was elected to the state legislature as a member of the then small and powerless Maine Democratic Party. In so small a group he came very quickly to the fore, serving as floor leader for the Democratic Party from 1950 to 1954 when the rising tide of opposition to the rock-ribbed conservatism of the Maine Republican Party swept him into office as the first Democratic Governor of Maine in the history of the state. He made it his job to attract investment to the state, and rapidly became its most popular personality, being easily re-elected in 1956. In 1958 he successfully challenged the Republican incumbent for his state's second Senate seat.

In his 22 years in the Senate, Muskie earned a reputation second to none for his thoroughness and

competence. Even though he eventually became chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, he made his greatest impact as chairman of the Air and Water Pollution sub-committee long before ecology became the fad of Left and Centre alike, earning the nickname of "Mr Clean". In 1965 he wrote the Water Quality Act, establishing the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, and in 1967 he drafted legislation establishing regional clean air standards. His biggest success came in 1966 when his speech on the model cities programme secured a 53-22 majority in the Senate for a measure all had assumed certain to be defeated.

In general his voting record managed to secure the wholehearted approval of the traditional liberal organisations, Americans for Democratic Action and the AFL/CIO Committee on Political Education, while his cautious, ruminative personality, his professional competence and his care for the interests of Maine industry maintained for him the support and respect of Middle America. There he was always recognised as a man who lived and worked by the ideals of honesty, hard work and independence, traditional to small-town society in America. It was the increasing public recognition of these qualities, highlighted by his deliberate rebuke of President Nixon's attempt in the 1970 mid-term elections to link his Democratic opponents with the radical lunatic fringe, which made him, however briefly, the 1972 front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

But he was never perhaps quite the straightforward character that even his backers took him to be. His personality was as complex as its political manifestations were simple. Beneath the courtesy and gentleness, for which he was famous, lurked a legendary volcanic temper. He drove his staff as hard as he drove himself. He was ill-at-ease with small-talk, absorbed by big issues and bored by frivolous, fussy details. He believed in frankness even when it might damage his cause, as in his famous rejection of the notion of having a black candidate for the vice-presidency, or in his comments on the failure of American liberalism to achieve any fundamental changes in American society since the New Deal.

In 1948 he married Jane F. Gray. She survives him, together with their two sons and three daughters.

JOHN PAFFORD



John Pafford, Goldsmiths' Librarian of the University of London, 1945-67, died on March 11 aged 96. He was born in Bradford-on-Avon on March 6, 1900.

LIBRARIANS, particularly university librarians, have for decades had to tackle the problem of organising collections for research in the face of vastly increased numbers of publications and students. Jack Pafford became embroiled in this logistical problem early on in his career and, despite showing an aptitude for academic scholarship, remained at the forefront of the science of librarianship throughout his long life.

It could be said of him, as Pafford wrote of H. S. Foxwell — who had collected the Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature in the late 19th century — that he cared for books "as things", and loved handling them: "but much more than this, he was deeply concerned with cataloguing and arranging his library."

Born with the century, John Henry Pyle Pafford was educated at Trowbridge High School, where he shone as both scholar and sportsman. He enlisted in 1918 in the Inns of Court OTC, and was commissioned into The Wiltshire Regiment, but because of his poor hearing he was never sent to the trenches.

On demobilisation, he began his long association with the University of London and University College, Reading English under W. P. Ker and R. W. Chambers, he repaid his debt to both by his later bibliography of Ker and his work on the Arden edition of *The Winter's Tale*, for which he was awarded a doctorate.

He turned aside from his first choice of an academic literary career and, after an assistantship in University College Library, became Librarian and tutor at Selby Oak Colleges in Birmingham. The award of a travelling scholarship to Europe enabled him to begin his series of investigations into librarianship abroad, an experience which led to his lasting commitment to inter-library co-operation — then still a struggling infant in most countries. *Library Co-operation in Europe* (1935), a dense but eminently useful book for librarians, emerged from his wanderings. In 1931 he was made sub-librarian at the National Central Library in London.

During the Second World War, Pafford was again denied active service by his hearing. But he played an important role in setting up Army Libraries and in the Army Education Scheme described in his pamphlet,

Books and Army Education (1946).

Appointed Goldsmiths' Librarian in the University of London in 1945, Pafford set about re-establishing the library on its return from evacuation. Under his direction it became one of the finest in a university with many fine collections. Pafford planned the published catalogue of the great Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature, and contributed the historical introduction to the first volume.

The many other special collections added during his librarianship are recorded in the tribute presented to him by the library staff on his 90th birthday. He brought in Sir Louis Sterling's remarkable collection of first editions with a grant to build appropriate accommodation, and persuaded individuals and societies to donate whole libraries, notably those for music, maps, and London.

He encouraged subject specialisation among the staff, with similar book groupings. The Open Lending Library, and the Depository Library at Egham were among results of his visit in 1947 to America and Canada. His use of the Bibliographic Classification of H. E. Bliss was a pioneering example to university librarians.

His appointment as library adviser to the Inter-University Council on Higher Education Overseas gave him the chance not only to give guidance to many new universities and their librarians, but also to add to the growing strengths of the University of London Library in the literature and history of other countries, notably of the Americas. The Elliot-Philips Library of Latin American, and the gift of the American Library from the United States Information Service have been enhanced by the recent acquisition of the library of the Canadian High Commission.

To his staff Pafford was approachable, compassionate, often humorous; among friends and colleagues he inspired affection and admiration, and his advice, diffidently proffered, was never sought in vain. Despite working in London most of his professional life, he remained recognisably a Wiltshire man, never losing his native burr, and contributing on occasion nuggets of history to local magazines, from *Spice and mineral waters to A medieval horseshoe and Hare shooting with a 22*. In 1993, at the age of 93, he completed his last book, *John Clavelle, 1601-43: highwayman, author, lawyer, doctor*.

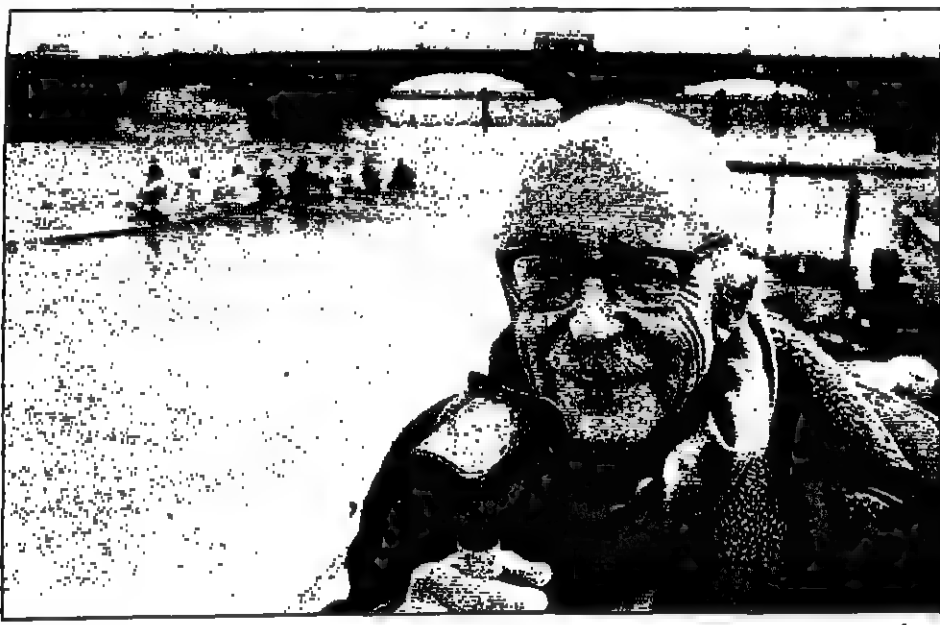
In 1941 he married his wife Betty. She survives him, together with one of their two daughters.

JOHN SNAGGE

John Snagge, OBE, broadcaster, died on March 25 aged 91. He was born on May 8, 1904.

JOHN SNAGGE was one of the best-known of those announcers and commentators who rose to prominence on BBC radio before and during the Second World War. At the time of his retirement in 1965 his voice — not least through the Varsity Boat Race and his much imitated intonation of "In... out... in... out" — had been a familiar one to listeners for nearly 40 years. He was Director of Presentation throughout the war years, and Head of Presentation (sound) until 1963.

John Derrick Mordaunt Snagge, eldest son of Sir Mordaunt Snagge, a County Court judge, was educated at Winchester and Pembroke College, Oxford. In 1924 he was appointed assistant at the Stoke-on-Trent relay station of the British Broadcasting Com-



pany (as it then was), at a time when "the wireless" was regarded as no more than a passing craze.

In 1928, when the company had given place to the Charterred Corporation, its Director-General, John Reith,

brought him to London as an "announcer". Reith, intent on giving authority to a still struggling institution, was al-

ready investing this role with a formality that was to become part of the BBC legend. Snagge, a stalwart man of strong presence, fell without affectation within the conventions of the time — including the wearing of a dinner jacket for evening bulletins. His individuality lay in a certain robust directness in addressing the microphone, in which Reith may not at first altogether have approved. Nevertheless, allied to a ready mind and an appetite for technicalities, it added to his authority for the big occasion.

He was also, at home in sport. In 1931 he gave his first running commentary on the Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race, an event he was to make his own. He had become deputy head of Outside Broadcasting before, in 1939, he was promoted Director of Presentation, at a moment when the reliability of the BBC programme schedules, taken for granted in peace, was about to become a buttress of national morale in war. Snagge and his staff bore a large share of responsibility for continuity in the studio; as they did also for coping with wartime hazards, including those of instant improvisation under air attack.

In those days, with the nation's very existence threatened, the voices of the newsmen, unhesitant, articulate and unfailingly on time — were awaited with an expectancy, and listened to with an attention which is hardly imaginable to later generations. Snagge would be heard at critical junctures. As link-man in London, he launched the famous series *War Report* at the time of the Normandy landings in 1944. That same year he was appointed OBE.

In the ensuing peace a voice so associated with tidings of war bore something of the burden of a receding past. But he was the natural choice to give the sound commentary on the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. In 1955 more people were still listening to his radio commentary on the Boat Race than watched it on television.

It was this event that kept him before the wider public in his later years. His coverage was extended to its fiftieth anniversary in 1980, not only in recognition of his unmatched experience and expertise, but also because he had in some way become inseparable from it in the minds of many without specialised interest in rowing. His style, if it bore echoes of an age that was passing, did so without affectation or pretension. A roving man himself, he still gave more information about what was going on in the boats than the public often gets. But it was his humanity, unimpaired to the last, that related him to the ordinary listener. Even his verbal mishaps, inseparable from live transmission, were relished by one and all, including himself.

After his retirement in 1965 Snagge did much freelance work, often for charity. He was a founder, and several times chairman, of the Lords Taverners. In 1972 he collaborated with Michael Bursley in the publication of *Those Vintage Years of Radio*, a lively account of earlier days.

In 1936 he married Eileen, daughter of H. P. Jocelyne, who died in 1980. He subsequently married Joan Wilson, a former BBC colleague, who died in 1992. He had no children and is survived by a brother.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA

M Gyo's programme for 1865 is extremely inviting. The details in full having already been published in our advertising columns, a very few payments may suffice before the opening of the theatre, which is announced to take place tomorrow with *Faust* and *Margherita*.

Mr Gyo dwells with accountable emphasis on the fact that the late Meyerbeer's eagerly expected grand opera, *Africaine* will now at length be brought out at his establishment. Meyerbeer's predilection for the work, and his anxiety about the means to be obtained for its adequate performance, are generally known; and, indeed, it is the belief of many that his exertions in that direction, during his last visit to Paris, aggravated the malady which had been his enemy for many years and eventually hastened his death. Happily there is one of scarcely less promise. We allude to the revival of Mozart's *Il Flauto Magico*, after a repose of 14 years. About the "cast" of the *Africaine* — which includes the names of Mlle. Pauline Lucra, Madame Carvalho, Horace Wachtel, and Schmidt, Signor Graziani, Neri Baraldi, and Anri — we care of course offer no opinion, being unacquainted with the peculiar exigencies of the music; but for the effective distribution of characters in Mozart's imagi-

ON THIS DAY

March 27, 1865

The Royal Italian Opera [now the Royal Opera House] could regularly present 10 operas in a season as well as having "some 25 works... available at a moment's notice".

native work we think we may safely vouch... The Sarastro of Herr Schmid a Teuton pur sang, with a magnificent bass — may fairly be expected to rival that of Herr Formes while Herr Wachtel — another Teuton pur sang — ought to be intimately versed in the traditions of Pamino... We shall love, it is true, the "O care imagine" of Signor Mario; but in revenge we are promised that the still most graceful, dramatic, and eloquent of stage tenors will undertake the part of Era Diavolo, in the Italian version of that most genial and delightful of French comic operas... But there is still a fourth in contemplation — nay,

actually promised. We mean the revival of the greatest of all comic operas Mozart's incomparable *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Here again we find the distribution of the dramatic personae unusually efficient. Adolfin's *Fatti* brings a new argument in vindication of her oft proved versatility in the assumption of Susanna; the more sentimental and stately embodiment for the Countess Almaviva devolves upon Madame Carvalho; Cherubino falls to Mlle. Lucra. Among other operas proposed is *L'Etiole du Nord*, with what cast we are unable to gather. Next comes *Linda di Chamounix*. Then, the not unfamiliar *Norma* will introduce to an English audience a soprano with whose praises the Continent has long been ringing. Mlle. Lagras having succeeded, it was incumbent on Mr. Gyo either to re-engage Madame Grisi, or to find another lyric tragedienne... The *Huguenots* and *Guillaume Tell* are naturally announced. *Lucenia Borgia* — with Mlle. Galati as Lucenia, Mlle. do Abria from Berlin, another fresh acquisition) as Maffeo Orsini, and Signor Saccomanno (from Milan — yet another) as the Duke — follows in due course; but these with *Un Ballo in Maschera*, may speak for themselves. *Le Prophete*, however, is to be rendered freshly attractive by the appearance of Mlle. Philippine de Edelsberg...

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

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Flights from London
to New York, 07.00
to Paris, 08.00
to Rome, 09.00
to Athens, 10.00
to Cairo, 11.00
to Bombay, 12.00
to Madras, 13.00
to Calcutta, 14.00
to Rangoon, 15.00
to Singapore, 16.00
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Court of Appeal

Law Report March 27 1996

Court of Appeal

Interrogatories must be necessary Leicester Square is not 'premises'

Hall v Seacroft Ltd

Crompton v Seacroft Ltd
Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Auld (Judgment March 21)

Interrogatories were not to be regarded as a source of ammunition to be routinely discharged as part of an interlocutory bombardment preceding the main battle. They had to satisfy the stringent test in Order 26, rule 1(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, that they were "necessary either for disposing fairly of the cause or matter or for saving costs".

Where, therefore, in a personal injury action interrogatories were served shortly after the plaintiff had served his particulars of claim and medical report and before exchange of witness statements or receipt of answers to requests for further and better particulars, they were premature and covered ground already or shortly to be available to the defendant. Accordingly they could not be shown to be "necessary" within the rule.

The Court of Appeal so stated (i) allowing appeals by the plaintiffs in two actions, David Hall and William Crompton, from Judge Weeks, QC, sitting at Bristol County Court, who had set aside decisions of deputy district judges ordering the withdrawal of

interrogatories served by the defendant in each case, Seacroft Ltd, and had directed them to answer the interrogatories and (ii) reinstating the orders of the deputy district judges.

Each plaintiff had begun proceedings in the county court claiming damages for industrial deafness against defendant employers and filing a medical report with the particulars of claim. In each case the defendant served its defence promptly, alleging that the claim was time-barred.

On the same date as the request for further and better particulars was made, in Mr Hall's case, and as the defence and request for further and better particulars were served, in Mr Crompton's case, the defendant served interrogatories on each plaintiff designed to elicit all information relevant to the nature and aetiology of the plaintiffs' complaint. The interrogatories covered much the same ground as certain standard directions given by courts handling industrial deafness cases. After they were served, the defendant received answers to the request for further and better particulars in each case.

Order 14, rule 11 of the County Court Rules 1981 applied the provisions of the Rules of the Supreme Court with regard to the

administration of interrogatories to county court actions.

Mr Nigel Cookley for the plaintiff in each action; Mr Anthony Goldsmith, QC, for the defendant in each action.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the guiding principle had to be that laid down in Order 26, rule 1(1) that interrogatories had to be necessary either for disposing fairly of the cause or matter or for saving costs.

Necessity was a stringent test. It could not be necessary to interrogate to obtain information or admissions which were or were likely to be contained in pleadings, medical reports, discoverable documents or witness statements unless, exceptionally, a clear litigious purpose would be served by obtaining such information or admissions on affidavit.

As a general statement the court would agree with that in paragraph 11.6 of the Guide to Commercial Court Practice 1995 (vol 1, p255, paragraph 72/44) and endorsed by Mr Justice Colman in *Det Danske Handelsbank v KDM International plc* (1994) 2 Lloyd's Rep 534: "Suitable times to interrogate (if at all) will probably be after discovery and after exchange of witness statements."

Interrogatories should not be regarded as a source of ammunition to be routinely discharged as part of an interlocutory bombardment preceding the main battle. The interrogator had to be able to show that his interrogatories, if answered when served, would serve a clear litigious purpose by saving costs or promoting the fair and efficient conduct of the action.

In the *Det Danske* case Mr Justice Colman had given reliable guidance on the approach to interrogatories. Since the same rules applied in the Commercial Court as elsewhere his observations were not applicable only to commercial cases.

The court could not accept that the present interrogatories were not premature when they had been served on the same day as the request for further and better particulars and before the exchange of witness statements in Mr Hall's case; and in Mr Crompton's when the defence, request for further and better particulars and the interrogatories were all served on the same day.

If it had been thought desirable to defer the obtaining and disclosure of expert evidence, that could probably have been agreed or a court order obtained. It was a valid objection to the interrogatories that they covered ground already covered in the pleadings and the medical reports and also the further and better particulars when delivered.

The advantage, referred to by the judge, of having all the answers on one piece of paper could not justify the time and expense necessarily involved in requiring the plaintiffs to depose to the answers on affidavit, and there was no material before the court to justify a challenge. Interrogatories had not been made, to their benefit.

It was not at all clear how the interrogatories, assuming the requests for further and better particulars were answered, as they were, and the witness statements duly exchanged, would help the defendant to decide whether to seek determination of a preliminary issue on limitation; nor how, if it decided to do so, the interrogatories would accelerate the ordinary timetable.

On the facts of the present cases, answers to the interrogatories would have added little or nothing of value to the knowledge the defendant already had or would gain from the plaintiffs' further and better particulars and witness statements; and the result would have been an increase of cost not a saving.

The court felt bound to conclude that the defendant could not show that the interrogatories were necessary so as to bring itself within Order 26, rule 1(1).

Solicitors: Vesale Wasbrough, Bristol Cartwrights, Bristol.

Regina v Bow Street Magistrates' Court and Another, Ex parte McDonald

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Smeaton and Sir Ralph Gibson

(Judgment March 20)
A busker playing his guitar in Leicester Square was not required to obtain a licence from the council to do so and was not acting unlawfully.

The provisions of the London Government Act 1963, as amended by the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1984, for the licensing of premises used for public entertainments were not designed to apply to streets or other places to which the public had access.

The Court of Appeal so held, granting *Regina v McDonald* the application for judicial review of the decision by Mr Ronald Bartle, metropolitan stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street, in granting a warrant empowering his officers to enter and search premises at Leicester Square and forfeit equipment belonging to Mr McDonald. In December 1994 Mr Justice Dyson had refused the application but granted Mr McDonald leave to appeal.

By paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 12 to the 1963 Act no "premises" can be used for "public dancing or music and any other public enter-

tainment of the like kind, except under and in accordance with the terms of a licence."

Paragraph 1(7) of the Schedule provides: "In this paragraph 'premises' includes any place."

Mr Charles Salter for the applicant; Mr Timothy Spencer for the council; Bow Street Magistrates' Court did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE SHTEMANN said that the appeal raised questions of importance to buskers in London. Depending on the tastes of the hearer and skill of the busker, their activities could add or detract from the pleasures of daily life. They had been playing music for years in the streets of London.

The council maintained that they had all been acting unlawfully because none of them had a licence. The council had tolerated them for years but, it seemed, had now concluded that they ought to be licensed and that the 1963 Act required them to be licensed.

It was an oddity of the case that if the council was right, it had itself been guilty of persistently breaching the law by tolerating buskers on its land.

The applicant was accustomed to play his guitar on roughly the same spot in Leicester Square and was using amplifying equipment. The short issue was whether Leicester Square was properly

described as "premises" for the purposes of Schedule 12.

For the council it was pointed out that "premises" included "any place" and it was submitted that Leicester Square, and any London street, could thus be described as premises.

Mr Spencer had accepted that Schedule 12 was not intended to make licensable the activities of a Pled Piper who moved from place to place. It was, he said, confined to "any area capable of demarcation".

But such a test was inappropriate in the context of applying criminal sanctions. Something more was required.

Thus, Mr Spencer said, relying on *Powell v Kempton Park Racecourse Co Ltd* (1899) AC 143, H.L., a place was regularly used by the applicant for his music making.

However, neither that case nor others under the Shops Act 1950 were helpful in the instant exercise. The council accepted that the 1963 Act was not framed with buskers in mind. It clearly was not Schedule 12 was concerned with the control of premises to which the public was invited for public dancing or music of entertainment of the like kind.

It was not designed to deal with situations going on in a street to which every music maker or other

member of the public had access. One music maker could replace another at an attractive spot and the schedule did not envisage situations in which several persons were licensed during one day to operate in one place.

It was not known whether Mr McDonald had Leicester Square to himself. One rather doubted it. Yet it was Leicester Square which was alleged to constitute the premises which should have been licensed.

Mr McDonald was playing his guitar in a public place to which the public had access and over which the council had innumerable powers. That was not a situation for which Schedule 12 was designed, or which should be interpreted, to cover.

The wholly artificial way in which the council tried to use its powers to secure a warrant to obtain a right of entry to a place in its own ownership, and to enter which it had no need of any warrant, made the point.

If there was a need for more controls than the council currently had then specific legislation should be passed giving those powers. The schedule, by dint of stretching its normal application, could not be used to assert the existence of a criminal offence which had hitherto been unsuspected.

Lord Justice Nourse and Sir Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Wilson Barrs; Mr Colin Wilson, Westminster.

Bid to revive defunct statutory company fails

National Rivers Authority v Stockinger and Others

Individuals wishing to become shareholders in a defunct statutory company could not do so by applying the principle *cogito ergo sum*.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division on March 12, in dismissing an appeal by Victor Stockinger and others from a decision of Master Morcaster dated November 24, 1995, whereby he declared, *inter alia*, that none of the defendants had validly become

a shareholder, director or officer of The Company of Proprietors, a company established in 1809 by a local Act (49 Geo III Cap 78) to make the Rivers Wye and Lugg navigable and to make and maintain along parts of their banks a towing path for horses.

HIS LORDSHIP said it was undisputed that for nearly a century and a half there had been no annual general meeting of The Company of Proprietors, no treasurer, no clerk, nor could any books, if kept, be found.

For judicial review of the Registrar General's refusal in September 1994 and June 1995 to amend their birth certificates to show their sex as girl rather than boy.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that section 29(3) of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 permitted an error of fact or substance in a birth certificate to be corrected by an entry in the margin. The birth register was a historical record and not a statement of current identity.

Mr Stockinger, neither having any interest in the company nor being instructed on behalf of anyone who had, had simply declared himself a trustee, initiated a meeting such as true shareholders might have held and behaved as if it had; just as if he had lifted himself into the company's saddle by his own bootstraps.

The National Rivers Authority had been entitled to such declarations as would have the effect of removing an impediment affecting itself and its functions.

In April 1993 there was still such uncertainty in scientific circles as to the cause of transsexualism that the Registrar was fully entitled to adhere to the tests for ascertaining the sex of a child approved in *Corbett v Corbett* (1971) P 83 and *R v Tan* (1983) 1 QB 1053.

None of the research material since the 23rd Colloquy on European Law in Amsterdam 1993 could reasonably have been expected to be available to the Registrar when he made his decisions.

Mr David Young, QC, for the

plaintiff holders; Mr Michael Silverstein for the Comptroller.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that for 20 years from 1973 the patent holders had a UK patent covering a chemical compound with the approved name of Budesonide. It reduced lung inflammation and was used in the treatment of asthma.

A medicine could not be sold unless it had a product licence and then only in accordance with the terms of that licence. It might take several years after being granted the patent to obtain a product licence, the appropriate authorities having to be satisfied of the medicine's safety and efficacy.

Product licences did not relate to chemical compounds as such but were much more specific about formulation and presentation of the product. In October 1981 the patent holders obtained a product licence ("PL1") for "Budesonide aerosol, with or without tube extension".

They did further research with the aim of finding an improved method which did not involve an aerosol. In June 1990 they obtained a new product licence ("PL3") for a turbobulb, described as a "dry powder inhaler device".

Mr David Young, QC, for the

member states of the EU recognised by the supplementary protection certificate scheme that research in the drug field was not getting its proper reward.

Although the term of a patent was 20 years, it was taking so long to get through the necessary procedures leading to authorisation to sell a drug that the practical period of protection was often too short.

The basic idea of the scheme was that where a patent holder of a medicine had lost time in obtaining his authorisation, he could get a further period of protection, subject to a maximum of five years, by the grant of a supplementary protection certificate.

The patent holders applied for a supplementary protection certificate for the maximum term of five years for "additive-free Budesonide in the form of agglomerated micronised particles" saying that the first authorisation for the product was PL3.

The principal examiner held that the first authorisation was not PL3 but PL1 so that no supplementary protection scheme could be granted.

The first five redials of the regulations indicated the importance of research and the need to encourage it so that it continued

to develop in the EU. Mr Young relied on those recitals and said the turbobulb formulation was the result of research so that PL3 ought to be protected.

His Lordship did not agree. He said that the research leading to the turbobulb was formulation research. There was nothing indicating that formulation research, unless it warranted its own patent, was to be protected by the supplementary protection certificate scheme.

The scheme was not for the protection of the fruits of research. It was to compensate for the lost time in the exploitation of inventions which were patented. The research leading to PL3 clearly could not lead to an supplementary protection certificate.

His Lordship said that on its face the regulation was so clear that any court in any other EU member state as well as the European Court of Justice would find in the same way. Since the hearing officer's decision was not only right but was so clearly right as to be able to make a reference to the European Court of Justice.

Agents: J. A. Kemp & Co (patent agents); Treasury Solicitor.

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Woman's Hour has thrived for 50 years by maintaining a balance between radical feminism and unapologetic domesticity

Give truck drivers their hour back

On next Friday's *Woman's Hour* Jenni Murray, the main presenter for nine years, will pick up the Broadcasting Press Guild award for Radio Broadcaster of the Year. She wins not only for consistent intelligence, news sense, imagination and stamina — broadcasting live for four mornings a week — but also for the remarkable quality of her voice. In my long and unsuccessful efforts to sound less "backwoods Massachusetts", I have often thought that, born again, I would come back as Jenni Murray.

The wheel has come full circle since 1946. Now, as then, there is no need to justify a programme dedicated to the female point of view. The separatism of the sexes, and the conflict between them, now seems to fill more newspaper and broadcasting space than politics and economics. No longer do you hear men sneering: "So why not a Man's Hour, then?" In today's media you can't get away from male angst, from impotence to baldness.

So *Woman's Hour's* agenda is clear: the topical and the timeless, the public and the personal. Monday's interview with Susan Sarandon about the political uses of stardom was a good example. "But if you were starting such a programme today," suggests Paul Donovan, radio critic of *The Sunday Times*, "you wouldn't call it *Woman's Hour*, would you?" No, you'd call it *The Girlie Show*, and you'd get the same result — women saying what they don't say elsewhere and men tuning in to hear it. But in 50 years from now, Channel 4 will not be celebrating *The Girlie Show*. While *Woman's Hour* may recognise shoplifting as a woman's problem, it will not tell you how to do it.

Woman's Hour has a lot of opponents, mainly the same Middle England voices hounding Channel 4. Its tone is far too

feminist-combative for those who would prefer every woman to be pruning roses waiting for the breadwinner to come home. It was ever thus. Since the beginning the programme has been lambasted as impossibly radical or laughably domestic. Its survival is proof of its successful balance — abortion rights one minute, Agas the next.

The shifting of *Woman's Hour* in 1991 from its traditional 2pm slot to 10.30am was a national trauma. Articles in the press and sacks of letters begged Michael Green, then Controller of Radio 4, not to do it. He did it anyway, for doctrinal reasons. Radio 4 mid-morning audiences showed a sag and a lively, topical magazine programme seemed the way to lift the numbers.

So it has done, but not by very much. The daily audience is modestly bigger at 600,000 (instead of



BRENDA MADDOX

500,000). And, yes, more men are listening — but not very many more. The sex ratio in 1991 was 70:30, now it is 65:35.

What better way to celebrate the golden anniversary than by admitting that these gains are paltry and by moving the programme back to its original time slot? Oh, but it would lose the new audience. Oh no it won't, to judge from a truck

driver's lament on another Radio 4 programme, *The Trade Rag*, last week: "A great tragedy for British working truck drivers was when *Woman's Hour* was altered to 10.30 in the morning. That's no use to anyone. In the morning, you're getting in and out of the cab, delivering the goods... In the afternoon we're running back, and there's a chance to relax and listen to *Woman's Hour*."

The original justification for the time slot was that 2pm was the hour of the day that a 1946 housewife could call her own — the dishes and cleaning done, the baby put down for a nap and the older children not yet home from school. That reasoning, with appropriate modifications, still holds. Jenni Murray (although not complaining about having to get up early) fears that, by going out in the morning, the programme now

may not be reaching an important constituency — women who work part-time. Many of these get home just after lunch and have an hour to themselves before they collect their children from school. This pattern applies to work-at-home fathers too.

Woman's Hour's natural time is still the early afternoon if only because one of the few stable things in a changing society is the closing time of the school day.

Fiftieth anniversaries abound this year as the BBC celebrates its postwar innovations, including Alistair Cooke's *Letter from America* and the Third Programme. Its Russian Service is a third. On Monday night, coming straight to its celebration party from the Campaign for Freedom of Information's award ceremony for those who have fought against the

British habit of official secrecy, I was refreshed to hear a reminder of government doing something in favour of openness.

In 1946 Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, head of information at the Foreign Office, launched the service in the hope it would broadcast into the Soviet Union "the true proportion both of favourable and unfavourable opinion". This sense of proportion, and the Foreign Office's trust in the BBC to deliver it, saved the Russian Service from turning into "Cold War Radio", as its American counterparts did. Perhaps the FO should get a freedom of information award.

And finally, all the excitement about the V-chip has invested it with magical powers to block out the offensive words and scenes of a parent's choosing. Nothing like the V-chip, as about to be introduced in Canada and the United States, blocks out whole programmes, not just the naughty bits. What it should really be called is a ratings system, but there are no headlines in that.

A very public divorce

Did South Africa feast too richly on the Mandela split, asks Ray Kennedy

The South African Divorce Act, as amended in 1979, is perfectly explicit: it is illegal to publish any particulars of an action other than the names of the parties and the judgment or order of the court. In the case of President Nelson Mandela and his former wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, as she now wishes to be known, the media reported every salacious detail of bedroom snubs, adultery and alleged wifely extravagance.

Since then there has been a collective beating of editorial breasts over whether or not, in a case involving two prominent public figures, there was justification to ignore the law.

Mr Justice Eloff, who heard the case and is also Judge President of Transvaal, did not raise objections at the hearing in Johannesburg, although he had ample opportunity to do so.

A member of Mr Mandela's legal team said: "No one from our side raised any objection. The publicity would have done him more harm if the trial [sic] was held in secret."

The central issue is whether the restrictions imposed by the Divorce Act are unconstitutional in South Africa's post-apartheid climate and in the light of the Government's support for press freedom and freedom of expression enshrined in a Bill of Rights.



Despite constitutional restrictions, lurid details of the Mandelas' divorce hearing were splashed across the press

Professor Dennis Davies, a constitutional law specialist at the University of Witwatersrand, found it "unbelievable" that the restrictions were breached so brazenly. "Being President gives you a reduced right to privacy, but it can't possibly destroy your privacy completely," Professor Davies said. "He might be the most famous person in the world, but he is not public property."

But Raymond Louw, former Editor of the *Rand Daily Mail*, until its demise in the early 1980s an opponent of apartheid, thought it was a risk that went with the job. Mr Louw, now chairman of the Freedom of Expression Insti-

tute, a constitutional lobbying body, was part of a delegation that approached the Government in 1979, when the Divorce Act amendments were enacted, to protest that they were being introduced to hide potentially important information from the public. Mr Louw said: "I feel sympathy for the President that his private life has to be banded about in public... but this is the price one pays for democracy."

The scrutiny of public figures in South Africa has been turned on its head by a ruling in the Constitutional Court last month in which Mr Justice Cameron overturned an Appeal Court judgment against a newspaper for defam-

ation. General Bantu Holomisa, a junior minister, was alleged to have been involved in infiltrating armed men into northern KwaZulu-Natal "to kill whites" in 1994 when he ruled the former Transkei homeland.

Justice Cameron said a successful democracy depended on "robust criticism of the exercise of power", which required alert citizens as well as an independent media. Anyone who sought to inhibit political speech by suing for defamation should have to prove that the media had "forfeited entitlement to constitutional protection" even if the published information turned out to be false.

After it came to power in May 1994, pledging transparent government, the African National Congress enjoyed a long honeymoon with a South African press that had endured and in some cases vigorously opposed decades of legislated censorship and hostility under the apartheid regime. Up to 100 laws inhib-

ited access to information and freedom: to publish were enacted, culminating in the nationwide state of emergency proclaimed in 1986, which carried threats of fines of up to 20,000 rand (about £3,300) or ten years in jail for contravening media restrictions.

But many of the ANC's office bearers, during years of exile in dictatorial African states or behind the Iron Curtain, have had experience of societies where freedom of expression was severely limited. They are increasingly sensitive to criticism as media attention turns to issues such as the Government's housing record — far behind the promised one million new homes in five years — the severe crime wave and the extravagance of some of the new elite.

There are also concerns about the media's ownership structure, which President Mandela has noted is "not only concentrated in a few hands but reflects the patterns of racial exclusion characteristic of the apartheid era".

Many of the apartheid-era laws restricting press freedom and access to information remain on the statute book, although they are now almost totally ignored. Mr Louw suspects that the Government wants to retain them. But he concedes that, while editorialship is still a legal minefield, the bombs go off less often.

"This is the price that one has to pay for democracy"

Alan Mitchell looks at a new way of buying our food

SAINSBURY'S is planning to revolutionise the way people shop by delivering groceries straight to customers' homes. The country's second-biggest supermarket chain is negotiating with Supermarket Direct, a London-based home shopping firm, to co-brand its operation as a Sainsbury-endorsed service.

The venture has been operating in the Wimbledon, Putney, Fulham and Clapham areas of south London since last October. The plan is for nationwide expansion, and a stock market flotation in two to three years' time. Dominic Scott-Flanagan, a director, says: "We believe that once consumers have shopped with us they will never want to visit a busy supermarket again."

Home delivery of items from pizzas to personal computers is burgeoning as consumers seek added convenience. But the delivery of the weekly food shop has been dismissed as a non-starter. Taking orders over the phone, processing them and organising temperature-controlled deliveries is expensive. Richard Chadwick, Sainsbury's business development director, says: "There will always be people who want to come in, or who won't trust home delivery for perishables."

Now the tide is turning as small London ventures such as Supermarket Direct and Food Ferry prove that enough consumers are prepared to pay an extra £5 or so to avoid the weekly supermarket pilgrimage. Jonathan Harnell-Beavis, a Food Ferry director, says: "Food Ferry is growing at 30 per cent a year. There is huge public demand, and it is going to keep growing as our cities become more crowded." Mr Chadwick says Sainsbury's long-term estimate is that home delivery will gain 5

Don't go shopping, let it come to you

Peapod, the leader in the home-shopping field, counts 60 per cent of its customers as dual-income families with children. The big shift, however, will take place only when "door-drop density" reaches a point where it actually becomes cheaper to deliver direct to the home.

The supermarkets have an interest in delaying that day as long as possible. While Sainsbury's ponders closer links with Supermarket Direct, it has no financial links with the firm. Tesco has started delivering the weekly shop to clients of Ealing social services, and has a long-standing direct-delivery service for wine, flowers and hampers. But what both companies are really looking for are ways that keep shoppers coming to their stores.

One alternative to home delivery is office delivery. Another is petrol station delivery: have your weekly staples loaded into your car while filling up at your supermarket petrol station. Or else have your order for regular items such as potatoes, milk, butter, baked beans and pet food pre-packed and waiting for you at the store. Then spend a shorter but more enjoyable shopping time choosing the more exciting items.

Marks & Spencer is experimenting with a different twist: allow people to choose and pay for their goods during their lunch hours and have them delivered to their homes later that day. For a fee of £5. As their most profitable consumers may desert them, the big retail chains will have no choice, says Mr Scott-Flanagan, but to offer home delivery. Meanwhile, Kevin Duffell, operations director at Andersen Consulting's Smart Store project, says they will do their best to provide more reasons to go to supermarkets.

income professional couples with children, families prepared to pay big margins on expensive food and drink for the privilege of having it delivered to their door. These people are so profitable that a superstore with 20,000 regular customers faces losing 10 per cent of its total profits if just 200 of them disappear.

That has been the experience in America, where

... AND 24 TINS BEST MIDDLE CUT SALMON ...

HOME SHOPPING

Smile

THE TIMES Take two children FREE to a Tussauds attraction



The Times, in association with Tussauds Group, offers readers a chance to take two children, in April (excluding Easter 5-8 inclusive) and May, free to any of Tussauds' eight attractions saving up to £26.

Full details appeared in Saturday's Times, but the following are the attractions you can enjoy, with the amount you would save off the price of tickets for two children in brackets: Chessington World of Adventures (save £26); Alton Towers (save £26); Madame Tussauds (save £11.50); The London Planetarium (save £7.20); Warwick Castle (save £10.50); Rock Circus (save £11.90); Port Aventura, Spain (save £32); Madame Tussauds Scenarium, Holland (save £12).

Although you cannot take the children in one of these exciting attractions at Easter, there are other bank holidays, in May, when you can take advantage of this offer.

HOW TO APPLY

You need to attach four differently numbered tokens from The Times (no photocopies will be accepted) to a completed entry form which appeared on Saturday and in yesterday's paper. More tokens will be published daily until next Saturday, March 30, 1996.

Present them at the ticket office of the attraction you visit.

You are entitled to up to two free child entries per party when paying one full adult admission.

The entry form plus tokens can only be used for one visit to any one attraction, subject to availability.

This offer excludes the Easter weekend and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

THE TIMES
The
TUSSAUDS
Group
TOKEN FOUR
Offer excludes Easter April 5-8 inc.

Death in the afternoon

THE afternoon is about to become the new battleground for terrestrial television audiences. Alexandra Freeman writes.

Channel 5, the nation's fifth free-to-air channel which is due to launch to 70 per cent of the country next January, has already earmarked weekday afternoons

as one of the most vulnerable areas in the main broadcasters' schedules, which have consistently failed to live up to expectations.

Our ratings chart shows that afternoons are dominated by chat shows, imported soap operas and game shows. Apart from BBC2's exceptional cookery pro-

gramme, *Ready, Steady, Cook*, there has been little innovation in this area for years.

In anticipation of Channel 5's arrival, ITV has already strengthened its afternoon output, with new shows such as *Sixth Sense*, in which a clairvoyant interviews a studio guest.

THE TIMES TOP 20 DAYTIME PROGRAMMES						
March 4 to 8, 1996						
Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Audience (m)
1. Neighbours	Mon 04	13.40	BBC1	Grundy Int Ops	Soap	4.0
2. Ready, Steady, Cook	Fri 08	16.30	BBC2	Bazal Productions	Lifestyle	3.8
3. One Tree Hill	Mon 04	13.00	BBC1	BBC	News	3.7
4. Countdown	Wed 06	18.31	CH4	Yorkshire Television	Game Show	3.6
5. Home and Away	Fri 08	17.00	BBC2	Seven Net Australia	Soap	3.4
6. Esther	Fri 08	12.30	ITV	BBC	Comedy	3.2
7. Lunchtime News	Fri 08	12.30	ITV	ITV	News	2.9
8. Today's The Day	Tue 05	14.20	ITV	Anglia/Multimedia Ents	Chat Show	2.8
9. Vanessa	Fri 08	16.01	BBC2	CH4	Drama	2.8
10. News and Weather	Fri 08	15.55	BBC2	Paramount/Midatlantic	Drama	2.2
11. Montel Williams Show	Mon 04	12.30	BBC1	Maverick Television	Game Show	2.1
12. Going For A Song	Tue 05	17.01	CH4	Garth Ancier/Columbus	Chat Show	2.1
13. Ricki Lake	Fri 08	13.25	ITV	Type Tees/Action Time	Game Show	2.0
14. Chain Letters	Fri 08	11.08	ITV	Granada	Comedy	1.8
15. This Morning	Tue 05	10.00	BBC2	Happo Productions	Chat Show	1.8
16. The Oprah Winfrey Show	Mon 04	14.03	BBC1	BBG	Chat Show	1.7
17. Pobble Mill	Tue 05	13.53	ITV	JNP Production	Soap	1.7
18. A Country Practice	Mon 04	15.06	BBC2	Orion	Film	1.7
19. Passport To Terror	Mon 04	15.06	BBC2	Orion	Film	1.7
20. The Time Place	Fri 08	10.01	ITV	Anglia Television	Comedy	1.6

BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board)/David Graham & Associates 01823 322829. Copyright © unauthorized reproduction. Repeats/second transmissions not aggregated. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (*).

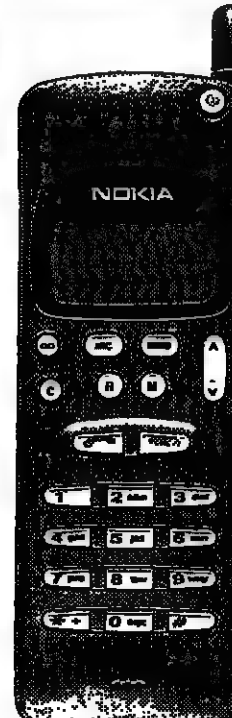
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HOMES 34

Swapping suburbia for a cold family manor



ARTS 37-39

Are we forgetting the genius of Samuel Beckett?



SPORT 43-48

Ferdinand sent on the attack for England

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MARCH 27 1996

Sir Rocco adds to his team

SIR ROCCO FORTE yesterday signalled his continued interest in bidding for the luxury hotel chain he lost to Granada by appointing a finance director to his acquisition team (Eric Reguly writes).

He is David Pascall, 47, who was finance director of the money and securities broking arm of MAI, the financial services and media company that recently agreed to merge with United News and Media.

Mr Pascall is Sir Rocco's third appointment. The others are David Stevens, the former legal director of the Forte hotels group, who is now Sir Rocco's commercial director, and Richard Power, Forte's former communications director, who is director of business support on the new team.

The group is to bid for the chain of Meridien and Exclusive hotels.



Lord Sterling said the aim was to raise returns to in excess of 15 per cent over three years and businesses unable to reach the target would be shed

P&O to raise £1bn via sales

By CARL MORTIMER

P&O, the shipping, construction and property group, plans to raise up to £1 billion over the next three years. P&O plans to float Bovis Homes, the housebuilding division, next year and £300 million will be shed from the group's huge investment property portfolio before the end of 1996. Further funds are expected to be released from P&O's bulk shipping business.

The surprise disposals announcement came as P&O revealed a fall in pre-tax profits from £349 million to £320 million including a sharp decline in profits from P&O Containers and the cross-channel ferries business which is suffering from the impact of Eurotunnel. The dividend is held at 30.5p for the year.

Lord Sterling, P&O's chairman, yesterday said the company should be able to meet all its capital expenditure needs and pay an increasing dividend from its businesses. To achieve that, he said the return on capital would have to be raised from last year's level of 11 per cent. "We want a return on capital employed across our operating divisions in excess of 15 per cent," he said.

Lord Sterling said the aim was to raise the return over three years and businesses unable to reach the target would be shed. He said that consolidation in the container shipping market would help P&O, but added: "The return from containers is totally inadequate. If we cannot see a way to get an acceptable return, it will leave the group," he said.

P&O is expected to ask the Government for release from undertakings not to collaborate with competitors on cross Channel ferry routes. Lord Sterling said there was no longer justification for them with Eurotunnel controlling half of the market. Profits at P&O Ferries fell from £114 million to £75 million in 1995.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3660.9	(-21.0)
Yield	4.05%	
FT-SE All share	1826.17	(-7.84)
Nikkei	21014.77	(+59.33)
Dow Jones	8648.56	(+4.70)
S&P Composite	851.81	(+1.77)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	9 1/4%	(9 1/4%)
Yield	8.82%	(8.58%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/4%	(10 1/4%)
Future (Jun)	10 1/4%	(10 1/4%)

STERLING		
New York	1.5840*	(1.5820)
London	1.5845	(1.5825)
DM	2.2518	(2.2525)
FF	7.7080	(7.7135)
Sfr	1.5187	(1.5188)
Yen	162.21	(161.79)
£ Index	83.2	(83.3)

US DOLLAR		
London	1.4785*	(1.4785)
DM	5.0500*	(5.0615)
Sfr	1.1522*	(1.1522)
Yen	106.35*	(106.17)
£ Index	66.7	(66.8)

MONTHLY SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$18.75	(\$18.80)
WTI	18.00	
London close	\$406.08	(\$398.16)

* denotes midday trading price

Share shop doors open for Railtrack sell-off

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government launched the first stock market privatisation of a nationalised industry for five years yesterday when 10,000 share shops began accepting registrations for the £1.8 billion flotation of Railtrack.

The sale, which represents the most important single component of rail privatisation, will transfer ownership of 10,000 route miles of track, 40,000 tunnels, viaducts and bridges and 2,500 stations to the private sector. The flotation will take place in the first half of May.

The last stock market sale of a state-owned industry was in 1991 when the electricity generators were sold. Since then, privatisation issues have been of second and third tranches of shares in companies already

largely in the private sector such as British Telecom.

The pathfinder prospectus will be published on April 15. About five million pamphlets giving basic information about the company have been sent to households that registered for previous privatisations.

The £5 million advertising and marketing campaign for the sale is being kept low key because the Government's advisers believe that the public is now highly familiar with the privatisation process.

They also fear there will only be limited enthusiasm for the sale from the public because of the complex structure of rail privatisation and have deliberately pitched the campaign more at experienced investors.

James Sassoon, managing director of SBC Warburg,

which has been advising the Government on the sale, said: "It's now very easy, you don't have to think very much about how and where to register for shares. There's nothing new, it's simple, you just have to go along to your high street share shop."

About a third of the

Pennington page 27

Railtrack shares are expected to be offered to private investors, with the remainder sold to City and international institutions in the flotation.

Investors will be able to take up their allocation in two tranches, with a maximum application of up to about £700 to £800. Those who register with share shops will be

entitled to discounts and other incentives on their second tranche allocation. SBC Warburg has signed up 110 banks, building societies, brokers and other intermediaries to accept registrations for the privatisation. There will be no central share information office as in previous privatisations.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, said: "With the share shop network in place and with registration now under way, we are confident the broad structure of the offer which we have outlined today will help attract a strong level of interest from retail investors across the country."

Brian Wilson, Labour's railway spokesman, said: "Investors should understand that this is a high-risk bet in every sense of that term."

He added: "Railtrack is

wholly dependent for profitability on political decisions about the level of subsidies. It is also a company which commands minimal confidence or respect on the basis of its performance so far. People will not be in a position to complain if they dabble in this flotation and then get their fingers burnt."

Labour is expected to announce later this week whether it would renationalise Railtrack.

Railtrack made a pre-tax profit of £98 million in the six months to end-September last year on turnover of £1.14 billion. It has had about £1 billion of government debt written off, leaving it with borrowings of about £600 million. Its flotation value is expected to place it on the brink of the FT-SE 100.

M&S plans to open in Australia

MARKS & SPENCER plans to open 18 stores in Australia, with the first outlet trading by Christmas 1997 (Rachel Bridge writes from Sydney).

M&S is now searching in key retail centres, including Sydney and Melbourne, and is conducting detailed research into the market.

It is understood M&S is looking for small retail outlets of up to 2,500 square metres, compared with its UK stores of up to 20,000 square metres. Planned total investment could approach \$200 million (£101.5 million).

A spokesman for Marks & Spencer in London said: "When we research a new market we research it thoroughly and we are in the middle of that process."

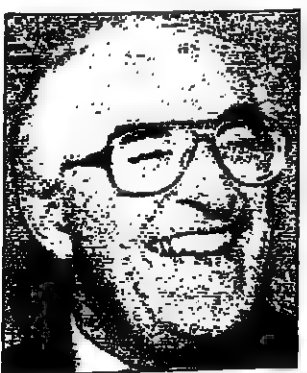
Halifax plans big giveaway

By ROBERT MILLER

HALIFAX, the UK's largest building society, yesterday confirmed that it is on course to become one of the country's top 20 companies with a valuation of about £10 billion when it makes its stock market debut in the summer of 1997.

About nine million qualifying savers and borrowers can now expect to receive an average of at least £600 worth of free shares. The special general meeting for members to approve the conversion to banking status should take place next February.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Halifax, which yesterday reported a 13 per cent rise in annual profits to £1.1 billion, said: "We will have the largest shareholder register in the UK and this is possibly the biggest giveaway



Blackburn: £10bn value

in terms of value in the history of the world."

Mr Blackburn said that over the next couple of years the Halifax, which has a 19 per cent share of the UK mortgage market on net lending of £2.9 billion, would seek to increase the group's income from non-

mortgage business. Monday's announcement of the society's proposed £800 million takeover of Clerical Medical, the insurer, was part of a strategy to increase market share in pensions, new life and unit trust business and possibly long-term health care policies.

Administrative expenses rose to £968.9 million from £780.6 million in 1994, reflecting the enlarged group after the merger with the Leeds Permanent Building Society last August. A further £112 million was set aside as an exceptional item.

Mr Blackburn now believes that the 1996 Halifax housing market forecast for house prices to rise 2 per cent and transactions 10 per cent may be on the conservative side.

Pennington, page 27
City Diary, page 29

MPs say jobless data is inadequate

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE monthly unemployment figures are a "completely inadequate" measure of the number of people out of work, an all-party committee of MPs said yesterday as it called on ministers to publish a much wider range of job figures.

Ministers are studying Central Statistical Office proposals to add a survey-based measure of unemployment to its monthly count of people out of work and claiming benefit, and the Commons Employment Select Committee yesterday said that a monthly survey would improve the current method.

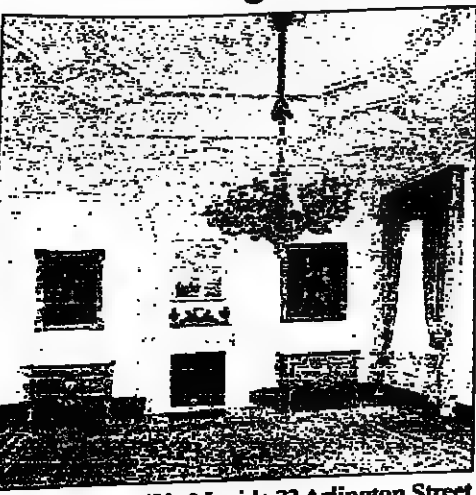
In its final report after being wound up following the merger of the education and employ-

ment departments, the Tory-dominated employment committee said that, although the monthly claimant count is useful, it should not have been allowed to become the only measure of unemployment. Because a claimant count is subject to changes in the social security system, it was an "unsatisfactory" measure.

The MPs supported a CSO proposal that ministers introduce, alongside the claimant count, a monthly version of the unemployment measure in the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey — a sample of 60,000 households that produces internationally recognised data, — and that a range of LFS data be issued.

Barclay Brothers seek more room at the top

By ERIC REGULY



THE Barclay brothers, the reclusive identical twins who own the Ritz Hotel in London, have offered to buy the historic William Kent house that stands next to the Ritz. It is thought they would like to use the mansion to increase the hotel's capacity.

Eagle Star, the insurance group owned by BAT Industries, has rejected the approach.

The property was not officially for sale and the brothers' offering price was not high enough to convince Threadneedle Property, the BAT division that manages the house for Eagle Star, to recommend acceptance.

The brothers, who also own the

Scotsman and European newspapers, never comment to the press and it is not known whether they are considering a higher price.

The Barclays bought the Ritz last October from Trafalgar House for £75 million. The 90-year-old property has 130 bedrooms, making it relatively small by five-star hotel standards, but has planning permission for 23 extra rooms.

With little space left in the Ritz, the Barclays have been looking for a neighbouring property.

The William Kent house, whose address is 22 Arlington Street, was designed by William Kent, a pioneer in Neo-Palladianism and an instigator of the Gothic Revival,

in 1740. It was occupied over the centuries by a succession of grandees, starting with Henry Pelham, who was to become Prime Minister.

The house, which is best known for its salon, hung with crimson damask and consisting of mythological figures, is considered one of the finest interiors in London.

Eagle Star bought William Kent house for £250,000 just after the Second World War, and now uses it for conferences, corporate entertainment and as its West End offices.

The company would not reveal its estimate for the house's current value.

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The Business Lawyers

Old-style names put demands to Lloyd's

By Sarah Bagnall

THE dwindling ranks of traditional names at Lloyd's of London are demanding a bill of rights to prevent discrimination and to give protection similar to that of shareholders in listed companies.

Names' representatives fear that traditional names will be sidelined and disadvantaged by actions of managing agents in the future. That is assuming that names accept a £2.8 billion settlement package.

The Association of Lloyd's Members and the High Premium Group, two influential bodies, have drawn up a bill of rights that is to be put to the insurance market's regulatory board. The six-point bill has been compiled with the support of two leading members' agencies, Willis Faber & Dumas and Christie Brockbank Shipton.

Christie's managing director, Charles Harbord-Hammond, said: "This is the first real test of the new regulatory regime to see whether the interests of names are protected rather than the preferences of the managing agents."

The names are concerned that some managing agents are able to benefit from insider knowledge. The names' bill of rights also demands that mergers of a syndicate require approval by a majority of names and that managing agents should no longer be allowed to reject, for no reason, a name's request to join a syndicate. Names want to ensure they have equal rights to subscribe for syndicate vacancies.

If their demands are not met, the names plan to introduce a resolution at Lloyd's annual meeting, on July 15.

UK economy grew 2.5% during 1995

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE British economy grew by 2.5 per cent last year, slightly less than 2.6 per cent previously estimated, while the current account deficit widened by far more than expected, largely due to record payments to the European Union, according to figures released by the Central Statistical Office.

Growth in gross domestic product was left unchanged from the most recent estimate at 0.5 per cent but there were revisions to the past year's data. Most notable of these was news that investment, far from rising 1.2 per cent, actually fell 0.7 per cent in 1995.

More surprising still is the fact that the savings ratio has risen in the last two quarters. The CSO had previously estimated that the savings ratio had fallen sharply in the third quarter to 8.6 from the 9.5 level recorded in the second and 10.1 in the first quarter of 1995. But the updated figures showed the savings ratio rose to 10.4 in the third quarter and to 10.5 in the fourth.

This suggests that, far from becoming more confident, consumers were, if anything, becoming more cautious as last year wore on. Yesterday's figures also contained downward revisions to consumer spending last year. Taking the fourth quarter 1995 against a year earlier, the latest estimate shows spending up 2.2 per cent against 2.5 per cent previously reported.

Consumer spending was up only 0.5 per cent in the final quarter. Jonathan Loyne of HSBC Markets said that the authorities will be hoping for much stronger consumer activity this year if they are to get anywhere near their 3 per cent growth forecast.

Other economists, however, saw some potentially bullish news for spending in yesterday's figures with a rise of 1.2 per cent in total personal dis-

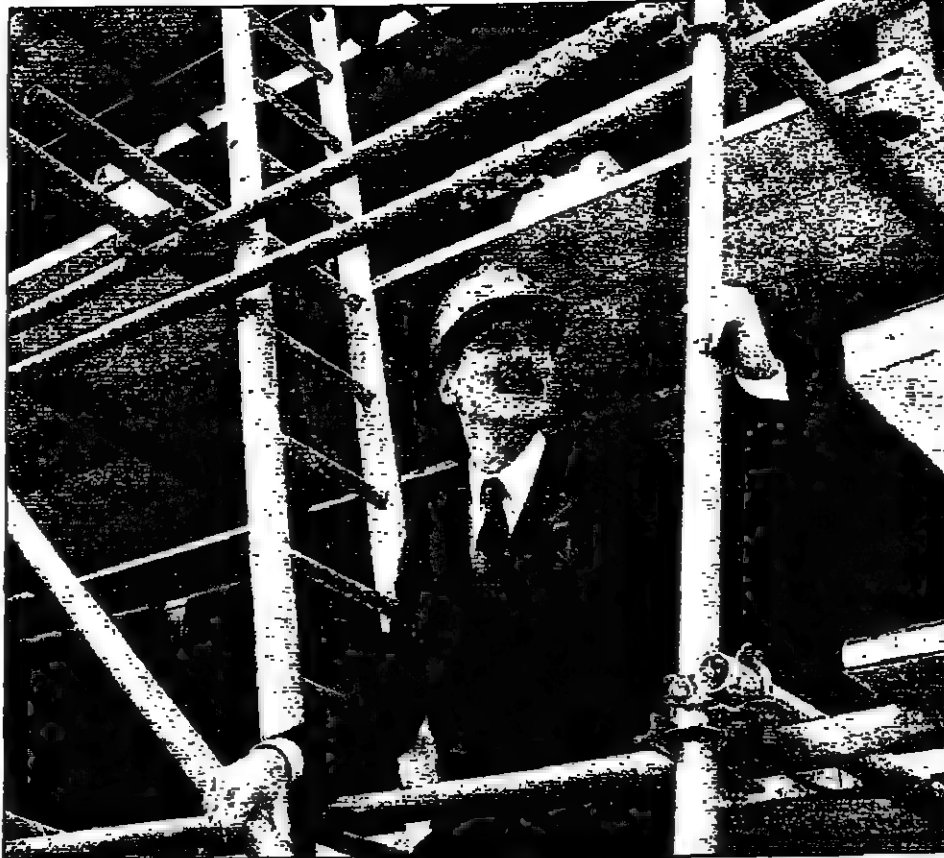
posable income in the final quarter of the year. Economists argued that this bodes well for the coming year.

Downward revisions in consumer spending, investment and service sector output were partially offset by an upward revision in exports. Separate figures showed that the current account deficit widened sharply to £6.67 billion in 1995, more than three times the £2.08 billion recorded in 1994 but well below the £11 billion deficit in 1993.

During the fourth quarter, the current account gap was £1.8 billion compared with £2.1 billion in the third quarter and City expectations of a deficit of £1 billion. This was largely because of lower than expected invisible earnings which in turn came about because transfers to EU institutions hit a record of £2.5 billion in the fourth quarter.

Britain's visible trade was in deficit to the tune of £2.8 billion in the fourth quarter compared with £3.6 billion in the third quarter.

Michael Saunders, United Kingdom economist at Salomon Brothers, said that, as long as transfers to the EU fall back to more normal levels, he would expect a current account deficit this year of £3 billion or less.



Colin Parsons, Taylor Woodrow's chairman, plans quality rather than quantity

Taylor Woodrow lifts payout

By Christine Buckley

TAYLOR WOODROW, the construction and property group, underlined an optimism for the future with a 50 per cent increase in its final dividend. The company reported a drop in pre-tax profits from £50.8 million to £46 million, after a £5 million restructuring charge and reduced profits from Eurotunnel units. But it lifted the final dividend, payable on July 1, to 2.25p from 1.5p, making a total of 3p.

Colin Parsons, chairman, said that the group's confidence sprang from wide exposure to overseas markets and the opportunity to reap rewards from its streamlining in the UK over the past year. In the UK, where the

company emphasised that the need to restore construction to profitability is paramount, the company plans to sharpen its focus and bid only for projects carrying a substantial profit margin. Mr Parsons said: "We intend to go for quality rather than quantity."

There will also be a shake-up of the company's £450 million worth of property investment with much earmarked for disposal. The company remained subdued on the housing market, after the average price of its houses fell from £82,000 last year to £74,500.

Tempus, page 28

Bankers driven to risk new crisis

By Patricia Teahan, Banking Correspondent

BANKERS fear they are being driven by intense competition to take unacceptable risks that will trigger the next banking crisis. According to comments made by 170 of the world's bankers, regulators and analysts, there is such high overcapacity that banks are under pressure to take risks to protect market share.

Over half the respondents to a study into "banking banana skins" by the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation published today identified over-aggressive management, bad lending, slack internal controls, unwise diversification, and an obsession with size rather than profitability.

John Melbourne, deputy

chief executive of NatWest, said the price of credit was "now being dictated by what the market will bear rather than by the credit risk." Other banking heads said global banks were continuing to "drive for market share regardless of cost."

Tim Congdon, the economist of Lombard Street Research, thought excessive capital would tempt banks "into new activities which they do not fully understand, notably insurance, fund management, and capital market activities including securities and derivatives."

Pennington, page 27

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Rate	Rate
Australia \$	2.06
Austria Sch	16.83
Belgium Fr	40.33
Canada \$	2.18
Cyprus Cyp	0.747
Denmark Kr	9.30
Finland Mk	7.97
France Fr	6.11
Germany Dm	2.46
Greece Dr	387.00
Hong Kong \$	12.41
India Ru	1.02
Israel Shk	8.1100
Italy Lit	243.00
Japan Yen	175.70
Malta	0.568
Netherlands Gld	2.670
New Zealand \$	2.37
Norway Kr	10.37
Portugal Esc	204.80
S Africa Rd	6.53
Spain Pta	166.00
Sweden Kr	10.70
Switzerland Fr	1.96
Turkey Lira	111.25
USA \$	1.489

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Orange shares ten times oversubscribed

THE initial public offering of shares in Orange, the third largest mobile phone operator, was ten times oversubscribed yesterday, meaning it will be sold this morning at the top end of the indicated price range. Orange said last month that the price per share would range from 175p to 205p, valuing the company between £2.2 billion and £2.45 billion.

Orange, owned by Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong and British Aerospace, early indications were that 30,000 investors had agreed to make the £1,000 minimum investment. If demand for the shares remains strong in the aftermarket, Goldman Sachs and Kleinwort Benson, the underwriters, are likely to exercise their option to sell some or all of their "over-allotment" of 49 million Orange shares next week.

Carnegie plans trusts

JP CARNEGIE, the Edinburgh asset management company, said that it intended to launch ten branded Carnegie Building Societies Investment Trusts, which will invest in permanent interest bearing shares issued by building societies. The size of the issue, sponsored by Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, is restricted to £30 million. The underlying trust portfolios may also include other high-yielding debt securities and shares of successor companies of building societies. Tempus, page 28

Shake-up helps Camas

CAMAS, the building materials group, started to see the benefits of substantial trimming of costs and a drive on margins with a 26 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits in 1995. But the company, which made profits before tax of £24.1 million (£19.2 million), said that this year would prove difficult in UK construction. The final dividend, payable on July 1, was set at 2.5p which takes the total to 3.75p, maintaining the previous year's amount.

Photronics chooses UK

MORE than 250 jobs are to be created by a leading American electronics company, which is locating its European headquarters in Britain. Photronics announced that it will site a new factory at Trafford Park, Manchester, with the help of a £1.8 million grant from the Government. The plant will manufacture photomasks, a component that is used in the production of semi-conductor chips.

Wolstenholme rises

WOLSTENHOLME RINK, the supplier of products for the print industry, achieved a 23 per cent rise in profits to £7.5 million before tax in 1995. Earnings were 65p a share, compared with 52.4p. The final dividend of 15p a share lifts the total to 24p, an increase of 10 per cent. Turnover of £75.8 million compared with £65.6 million previously. The company said there were signs that demand in some important markets is slowing.

US rates unchanged

AMERICA'S Federal Reserve yesterday left interest rates unchanged amid signs that the economy is springing back from a mid-winter slowdown. The decision had been expected and left the key federal funds rate that commercial banks charge each other for overnight money unchanged at 5.25 per cent. After faltering in January, the economy picked up steam last month as consumer spending rebounded, industrial production boomed and housing starts increased.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

ROBECO GROUP

ROBECO N.V.

(investment company with a variable capital)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Friday, 26th April, 1996, at Concert and Congress building "de Doelen", entrance Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam, at 9.30 hours.

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1995
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1995
4. To determine the appropriation of the profit
5. To compose the Board of Supervisory Directors
6. To compose the Board of Directors
7. Any other business

Copies of the full agenda and of the Annual Reports for 1995 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carol Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE. Telephone: 0171-409 3507.

Holders of Bearer Share Certificates desirous of attending or being represented at the Meeting, should lodge their Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted for voting purposes) with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) in exchange for a receipt, not later than Friday, 19th April, 1996.

Beneficial owners whose Bearer Share Certificates are presently deposited with a Bank must obtain a Certificate of Deposit signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Certificates. The Certificate of Deposit must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC, in accordance with the requirements stated above.

The receipt for Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit will constitute evidence of a shareholder's entitlement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desires to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote in his stead, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and that form of proxy must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-shares registered in the name of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited desirous of attending or being represented at the Meeting must obtain a receipt or Certificate of Deposit in the same way as holders of Bearer Share Certificates. If they desire to attend the Meeting in person or to be represented they must obtain a form of proxy signed by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, which form must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt exchanged for the Sub-shares Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-shares registered in any name other than that of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, holders of Registered Full Shares and Shareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company wishing to attend and vote at the Meeting or to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in their stead, must signify their intention in writing to the Secretary of Robeco N.V. or Robeco U.K. (whichever is applicable), Coolingiel 120, NL-3011 AG Rotterdam, Netherlands to arrive not later than Friday, 19th April, 1996.

Service contracts are not entered into with the Directors, who hold office in accordance with the Articles of Association.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT

ROTTERDAM

Dated this 27th day of March, 1996

ROLINCO N.V.

(investment company with a variable capital)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Friday, 26th April, 1996, at Concert and Congress building "de Doelen", entrance Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam, at 11.45 hours.

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1995
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1995
4. To determine the appropriation of the profit
5. To compose the Board of Supervisory Directors
6. To compose the Board of Directors
7. Any other business

Copies of the full agenda and of the Annual Reports for 1995 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carol Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE. Telephone: 0171-409 3507.

Holders of Bearer Share Certificates desirous of attending or being represented at the Meeting, should lodge their Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted for voting purposes) with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) in exchange for a receipt, not later than Friday, 19th April, 1996.

Beneficial owners whose Bearer Share Certificates are presently deposited with a Bank must obtain a Certificate of Deposit signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Certificates. The Certificate of Deposit must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC, in accordance with the requirements stated above.

The receipt for Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit will constitute evidence of a shareholder's entitlement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desires to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote in his stead, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and that form of proxy must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-shares registered in the name of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited desirous of attending or being represented at the Meeting must obtain a receipt or Certificate of Deposit in the same way as holders of Bearer Share Certificates. If they desire to attend the Meeting in person or to be represented they must obtain a form of proxy signed by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, which form must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt exchanged for the Sub-shares Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-shares registered in any name other than that of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, holders of Registered Full Shares and Shareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company wishing to attend and vote at the Meeting or to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in their stead, must signify their intention in writing to the Secretary of Robeco N.V. or Robeco U.K. (whichever is applicable), Coolingiel 120, NL-3011 AG Rotterdam, Netherlands to arrive not later than Friday, 19th April, 1996.

Service contracts are not entered into with the Directors, who hold office in accordance with the Articles of Association.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT

ROTTERDAM

Dated this 27th day of March, 1996

RORENTO N.V.

(investment company with a variable capital)

INFORMATIVE MEETING FOR SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Friday, 26th April, 1996, at Concert and Congress building "de Doelen", entrance Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam, at 14.30 hours.

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. To discuss the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1995
3. To discuss the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1995
4. To discuss the appropriation of the profit
5. To discuss the remuneration of Supervisory Directors
6. To discuss the composition of the Board of Supervisory Directors
7. To discuss the composition of the Board of Directors
8. Any other business

Holders of Bearer Share Certificates desirous of attending or being represented at the above called Meetings, should lodge their Share Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted) with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) as follows: INFORMATIVE MEETING - NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, 19TH APRIL, 1996. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NOT LATER THAN MONDAY, 22ND APRIL, 1996, IN EXCHANGE FOR A RECEIPT.

Beneficial owners whose Share Certificates are presently deposited with a Bank must obtain a Certificate of Deposit signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Share Certificates. This Certificate must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC, in accordance with the requirements stated above.

The receipt for the Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit will constitute evidence of a shareholder's entitlement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desires to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote in his stead, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and that form of proxy must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Shareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company, wishing to attend either of both Meetings or to appoint a proxy in their stead, must signify their intention in writing to the Secretary, Rorento N.V. c/o Avireno B.V., Coolingiel 120, NL-3011 AG Rotterdam, Netherlands to arrive not later than the dates indicated above.

Although proxies may attend, votes will not be cast at the Informative Meeting.

Copies of the full agenda and of the Annual Report for 1995 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC at the address shown above or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carol Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE. Tel: 0171-409 3507.

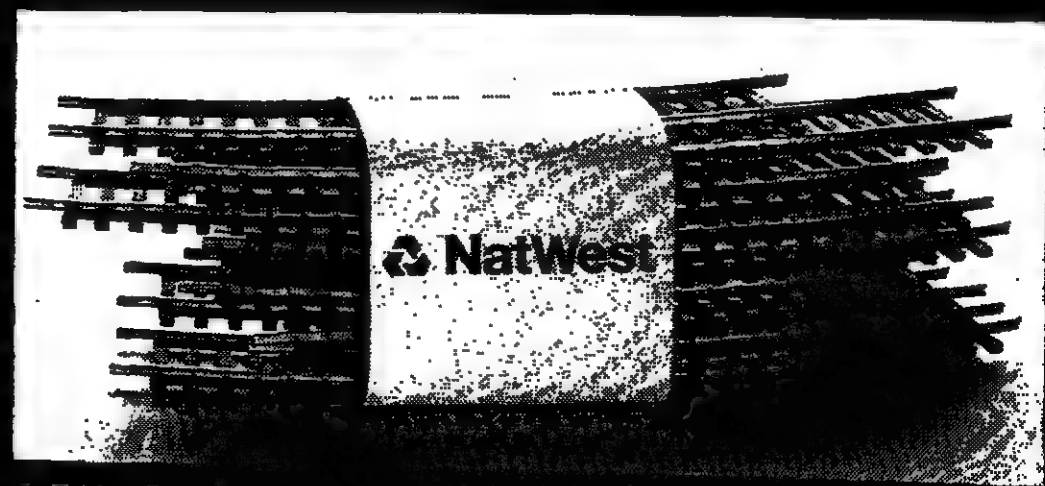
Service contracts are not entered into with the Directors, who hold office in accordance with the Articles of Association.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT

ST. MAAKTEN

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□ Tracking the numbers, Labour allowing □ Red card for football shares □ Whence the next financial crisis?

Fudge on the line

SOME time over the next few days, a couple of paragraphs of leaden prose will drop through the letterbox at the offices of SBC Warburg, in charge of the privatisation of Railtrack. Until the postman calls, normal investment criteria do not apply to one of this year's two biggest stock market debuts.

The best indications are that Labour, pledged to insert a policy statement into the Railtrack prospectus, will go for a political fudge, something along the lines of "when appropriate, we might or might not pursue our goal of stealing the track and signals back from the people who own it."

This would be an act of moral cowardice that would disappoint many, inside and outside the City, who had hoped for better from New Labour. But take it as a *fait accompli*, and it does allow a few preliminary numbers to be done and a few assumptions to be made about the Railtrack sale.

Investors will want to know first, what sort of price they will be expected to put up, and second, what can go wrong with their investment thereafter. The price will reflect the dividend yield. Railtrack's advisers think will be necessary to get the issue away, and how much higher this yield will have to be than that already on offer from existing privatised utilities.

The figures being worked on, all based on the financial year ending at the end of this week, allow comparison with two, the National Grid that was floated last year and BT, on the stock market for more than a decade.

Both yield approaching 7 per cent, high in stock market terms, because of the regulatory risks they face. BT is in open conflict with its regulator while the Grid, because of executive share options and other unpleasantness, is one of the bad boys in the utilities sector and may be heading for future grief.

Railtrack believes that while it must bear some political risk, the regulatory danger is slim: the restructured rail industry is held together by a network of contractual agreements between train operators, the Government and the regulator which, would, legally, be the devil's work to unpick. The two balance out, assuming a Labour fudge, which suggests a similar yield to Grid and BT. Add on 10 to 15 per cent as a premium for investors and assume a 7 per cent dividend growth for the first year under private ownership, and the his-

toric yield at flotation works out somewhere short of 7.5 per cent.

We shall see. As to what can go wrong, there would seem to be only one real risk, and that is if the new Railtrack bosses prove even more incompetent than British Rail. Widespread signal failure, say, and the company loses revenue from the train operators in the form of track access charges to the point, ultimately, that it would be unable to pay a dividend.

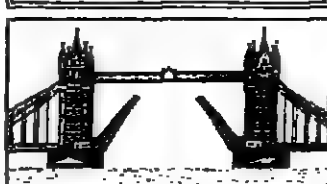
This would seem wildly improbable, even if much of the board are BR veterans. The only other possible risk comes from Labour. Over to you, Mr Blair.

Millwall no match for the Reds

IT WOULD probably have been a closer contest if Manchester United had met Millwall on a football pitch. But yesterday the two football clubs met as stock market rivals to produce results that were in different leagues.

United, oozed Premiership class as the company more than doubled pre-tax half year profits

PENNINGTON



to £15.2 million and raised the interim dividend to 1.6p, even if the club had, by its high standards, a poor start to the season. Millwall saw losses treble to £376,000 and no dividend, even though attendances were up.

United's success, coupled with a promising stock market performance of late by Tottenham Hotspur, has led other clubs to explore the idea of flotation. In recent months, Chelsea, Leeds, Arsenal, Aston Villa, even poor old West Bromwich Albion struggling in the Endsligh League Division One, have expressed an interest in coming to the market.

But while United has become a reputable investment vehicle, even if one more geared to

fashion retail than skill in the goal mouth, other football clubs may not be such a success — especially given the run of the play so far. Manchester United is a global brand name that gives the company a lead in the chase for sponsorship and marketing deals and allows the club to weather a bad year on the pitch. Competition from Nike for United's kit contract forced Umbro to bid the price up to around £60 million.

Most of the other big clubs rely on the financial contributions of a football crazy sugar-daddy, such as Sir John Hall at Newcastle and Jack Walker at Blackburn. Shareholders in quoted clubs will be less keen than they are for success at any price, especially if it starts to hit dividend payments.

Above all, the gap between football success and failure will always remain marginal. It only takes one dodgy refereeing decision, or a changing room bust-up with the stropky star striker to wreck the balance sheet. But the disregard shown by the fans for the financials will still drive the share price. Most football

share certificates will always belong on the bedroom wall, with the season ticket, the kit and the autographed team sheet.

Banking on the next disaster

BANKERS, like First World War generals it seems, are still fighting the war before. A list of 50 terrible things that could go wrong soon, culled from a survey of bankers, regulators and other professionals, includes inadequate regulation, a rogue trader, electronic fraud and a Japanese financial crisis.

All this, after Barings, Nick Leeson, a \$10 million computer theft from Citibank and the Daiwa scandal, suggests that the respondents at least read the news headlines. But their nomination for the biggest threat of all, the next runaway asteroid to splash down on the world banking system, does imply some degree of self-knowledge and wisdom — along with a chilling belief in the inevitability of the next banking disaster. That threat, in the Centre for

the Study of Financial Innovation's list of impending banana skins, is that over-capacity and thin margins require banks to do silly things to hold market share. "Unwise diversification, and an obsession with size rather than profitability" is a phrase that leaps out with a strangely 1980s air to it.

The worry is that while the majority of respondents think their industry is heading for disaster, each banker individually presumably thinks he or she is acting responsibly and in the interests of shareholders and account-holders. It is the other fellow who is getting it wrong.

No saving grace

NOTABLE for its absence from Halifax's annual results yesterday was any comment on savings rates. Savers, forced to sit tight until they receive their payout after next year's conversion, are being kept in the dark. Will the recent cut in base rates force savings rates down, or will the Halifax, like its mutual rivals, absorb the cost and take the hit on its margins? A glance at the mortgage market might suggest the answer. The Nationwide, vociferously wedded to mutualism, will still be offering a cheaper mortgage than the Halifax when new rates come into effect on Monday.

UniChem vows to carry on buying

By ERIC REGULY

UNICHEM, the drugs wholesaler and retailer, said that the monopolies referral of its £620 million bid for Lloyds Chemists will not deter it from growing by smaller acquisitions.

Jeffery Harris, chief executive, said that the company expects to buy out 50 or more independent pharmacists in 1996 and will pursue its European expansion strategy by forming joint ventures in the wholesale market. Pharmacists, he said, typically cost £400,000, and there are thousands from which to choose. Mr Harris said that he expects the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to clear UniChem's bid for Lloyds, subject to a disposal of some, or all, of UniChem's wholesale business, and to clear the rival bid by Gehe of Germany. "We'll both come back to the match again," he said.

UniChem made pre-tax profits of £49.4 million for 1995, up 12.3 per cent. Turnover was £1.4 billion, up 3.9 per cent. Operating profits were £66.8 million, up 14 per cent. Earnings were 19p a share, against 18.8p. A 5.3p final dividend, up from 4.7p, makes 8p, up 12.2 per cent.



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Tony Davidson
Managing Director

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- UK Net Premiums increased by 2% to £336.3m
- Total Assets exceed £1,000m
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THE
TIMES
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Beef crisis? Not at Asda

MAD timing for Asda, which launched a multi-million-pound beef promotion throughout its supermarkets yesterday. Seemingly oblivious to the furore down on the farm, Asda's Great British Beef promotion has been planned for the run up to Easter. For a fortnight, Asda shoppers have the opportunity of filling their baskets with bargains, including sirloin at £7.25 per pound as opposed to £9.99. The promotion is rumoured to have cost Asda £5 million, but the supermarket chain says its customers are over the moon. "We've had a vote of confidence from our customers," says Sue Finnegan, public relations manager at Asda. "Our beef sales have been increasing year on year."

Europhobe

ALAN MEALE, MP for Mansfield and chairman of the Parliamentary Beer Club, was handed a one billion ecu coin outside the House of Commons yesterday. The gift was from the loony Hugh Becker, chairman of Teesdale Traditional Taverns in County Durham, who claims to have spent a five-figure sum on 5,000 smaller ecu medals, cast in bronze, to protest against government duty on beer. "You might say that this is a case of carrying Kohls to Newcastle, but our customers are tired of Brussels," Becker says.



Meale: billionaire

PHILLIPS, the auctioneer, was by far the most popular stand at the Society of Names conference in Jermyn Street yesterday. Lloyd's names were witnessed flocking to its stand, with the hope of fixing a price on their family heirlooms.

Not me, lad

AUTHORSHIP of quotes is not always a precise science. So in attributing the quote that Halifax's £10 billion flotation next year will represent "possibly the biggest give-away in terms of value in the history of the world" to chief executive Mike Blackburn, who delivered it at yesterday's results, would be wrong. The author was Gary Marsh, a Halifax spokesman.

Way to the top

JOHN FRY, deputy chairman of Abbey National, celebrated his retirement after 35 years with the building society-turned bank with some old friends and rivals at a cocktail party hosted by his chairman Lord Tugendhat this week. Only the second graduate to be employed by the society, Mr Fry's success, he revealed, was based on tricks picked up during National Service in the Royal Dragoon Guards, "buy a clipboard, look efficient and answer questions briskly — even if with no content at all".

SOME familiar faces were missing at Uni-Chem's preliminary results in London yesterday. When chief executive Jeff Harris asked why only half the analysts expected were there, he was told the others had opted at the last minute to join a freebie to a Barcelona condom factory instead.

MORAG PRESTON

What British business wants from Europe

Philip
Bassett
on the EU
governmental
conference

Business leaders in Britain and Europe will be watching warily as the EU's leading politicians head for Turin for the start of the inter-governmental conference (IGC) on the future of Europe. They are worried that in the diplomacy of updating the Maastricht treaty Europe's business and economic interests will not be at the forefront of the protracted negotiating process the IGC will become after its launch on Friday.

Unice, the cross-European employers' body, says it wants this IGC to avoid the difficulties encountered in 1991, the negotiating run-up to Maastricht. Chambers of commerce put it even more bluntly: "During the passage of the Maastricht treaty, there was little attention paid to the real effect on business, on jobs and on the prosperity of the nation."

Not this time, says business. This time, economic competitiveness — especially for Europe against the "tiger" economies of the Far East and the emerging economic forces of India and China — must be to the fore.

Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, says: "The EU faces two great challenges, the need to ensure that European business improves its competitiveness in world markets and the need to anchor the new democracies of Eastern Europe in an enlarged economic community."

"The IGC will prove to be a distraction unless it delivers change to institutions and decision-making which make competitiveness and enlargement more easily attained."

Robin Geldard, President of the British Chambers of Commerce, agrees — making specific reference to the issue over Europe that business sees as the most important and as having the potential for the greatest distraction. "Our biggest worry would be that all this talk of a single currency, and more generally Europe, will divert UK business from the bigger objective: competitiveness on a world stage."

British business leaders say there is already enough about the IGC to worry them. Although there is no formal agenda for the IGC talks, the Maastricht commitment for a review of the treaty has a primarily structural focus: issues such as the European legislative process, the EU presidency system, qualified majority voting, the number of commissioners, the powers of the European Parliament and the European Court of Justice.

Business leaders in the UK believe that such matters, vital in the high councils of Europe, seem at best of limited relevance to companies in Britain



Ruth Lea, of the Institute of Directors, says business is sending a clear message to politicians

worried about whether the slowdown in the economy will bite them as a new recession. But they insist that companies' complaints about Brussels, including legal measures — especially about employment — that they are still being required to implement show precisely why business should be concerned with the outcome of the IGC process. If you do not want your company hit by such moves, the message goes, then the IGC is not some irrelevant piece of Euro-nonsense, but something that really does matter.

The UK Government's pre-IGC paper was enough to stoke business concerns. In 27 pages, the word competitiveness appears only five times, and even then, business judges, its secondary, or at least largely external, role is apparent. "The IGC needs to proceed in parallel with other necessary work, including the reform of key policies, and the need for member states to improve the competitiveness of their economies." And if that's the UK Government's view, goes business opinion, how much worse will be that of other EU countries, less wedded to the importance of competitiveness than Britain?

In a letter to Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Secretary, about the Government's pre-IGC document, the British Chambers of Commerce says: "We perceive the lack of other departments' input, particularly the Department of Trade and Industry's, in the White Paper." Certainly, the competitiveness unit of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister was barely involved in preparing the UK's IGC line.

Business irritation at the IGC's perceived lack of competitiveness focus is widespread. But such unity masks deeper divisions over Europe, which business fears the IGC may amplify when the pork-barrel politics of the EU draws the whole process in towards what will inevitably be a compromise deal at its end, in 18 months to two years' time. "Unice reaffirms its support for the objective of economic and monetary union and the introduction of the single currency on the basis of the Maastricht treaty conditions and timetable," says the European employers' body in its document for the IGC. "The forthcoming IGC must not reopen negotiations on EMU."

Such a bold statement makes Unice's British member, the CBI, uneasy. Indeed, Unice's IGC paper includes a

CBI "opt-out" clause on the point, recognising the the confederation's support for the UK Government's single currency opt-out.

Opinion and anecdotal evidence confirm British business's dichotomy over Europe. With the rest of Europe as a key export market, business in the UK is firmly wedded to close and continuing European co-operation. But it finds some of Europe's views, especially on social affairs, hard to take, at least in theory. The practical experience of some EU legislation, such as European works councils, is proving perhaps less of a horned beast than some of the ideological tub-thumping from business at first suggested.

That leads to conflicting accounts of what business thinks. In its repeated calls for a "rational debate" on Europe, the CBI is at the same time clearly critical of the UK Government, which, it says, "needs to establish its credibility as a constructive force committed to the EU".

Yet organisations such as the Institute of Directors, which is devoting the whole of its annual conference next month to Europe, claims a strong and strongly hostile homogeneity to

some key European issues such as the single currency and the social chapter. Ruth Lea, IoD policy head, says: "Business is sending a very clear message to politicians about these issues, and we hope they will be carefully noted during negotiations in the forthcoming IGC."

What British business wants from the IGC is clear: **□ Competitiveness.** Business says that if Europe fails to be competitive it will be incapable of achieving any of its objectives. At present, strengthening competitiveness is only an "activity" of the EU. For the IGC, business in Europe is promising that it be upgraded to a full objective. **□ Single market.** More than three years after coming into effect, the single market is seen by business as incomplete. If the powers of European institutions need to be changed, business wants to see them enhanced to ensure the full completion of the single market.

□ EMU. In the main, business is positive about monetary union. However, it remains worried about the convergence criteria and the timetable. If the IGC is to touch EMU, it should enact change only that enhances rather than detracts from it.

□ Deregulation. Business fears that the IGC will lead to a new raft of regulation and is insisting that any proposals for amendments to Maastricht should be specifically and rigorously tested for their effect on the creation and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

□ Transparency. Any IGC changes to European institutions, such as the voting strengths of different member states, should be clear and judged on the basis of efficiency and the equity of implementation.

□ Social policy. A competitiveness test is the bare minimum, and some business leaders now state that there are simply no further areas where any EU legislation should impact upon the employment relationship; in other words, social policy should stop.

All this is a sizeable agenda. But business feeling is that however sizeable, it is not the IGC's agenda. That means business will be looking hard at Turin and what follows. Peter Agar, the CBI's deputy director-general, says: "We are not saying, drop the IGC agenda and do something completely different, but whatever it says on institutional change we ought to ask is that going to help deliver a Europe better able to compete in world markets, to grow and to create jobs."



ANTHONY HARRIS

Next climbdown: Helmut and his mad EMU plan?

The embattled John Major and the triumphant Helmut Kohl have not got much in common. But they do share two striking qualities: a political will which confronts their opponents; and an ability to ignore uncomfortable realities which is the despair of their supporters. Both have chosen the same week to demonstrate them.

Major may seem to have followed his model, Mr Micawber, into the realms of pure fantasy. What, apart from EU subsidies, can possibly turn up to help him this time? Public memory is short, and tax cuts and the smell of roast beef may yet prove more appetising than now seems possible; but first there must be some sort of climbdown, and yet more humiliation. He is also no doubt aware (and Tony Blair clearly agrees) that public indignation against the EU could be very helpful to the Tories; and Brussels has played his game by over-reacting.

The Kohl game plan is just the opposite. Helmut, who reunited Germany at one bold (and expensive) stroke is now going to unite Europe itself. He clearly understands the romantic German soul much better than his bean-counting SDP opponents. They were trying to frighten German voters into clinging to their D-mark, got it wrong, and so helped to rescue the Free Democrats for the umpteenth time. The Chancellor will be harder than ever to restrain at the inter-governmental meeting in Turin. But despite appearances, he too is playing Micawber.

What he hopes will turn up is the German economy. Unless the current mild German revival matures into something really beefy, it may be Germany rather than France which misses the EMU convergence criteria.

The French have realistically revised their growth forecast for this year down to 1.4 per cent, and still hope to get within a plausible distance of a 3 per cent deficit. Germany is still relying on a growingly implausible official growth forecast

of over 3 per cent, which would require boom conditions in the second half of the year, to get no nearer than the French.

Implausible, but not impossible. In present conditions, the Bundesbank has cut rates more boldly than anyone expected. It has already achieved a 6 per cent devaluation against the dollar, and a renewal of broad money growth which has encouraged broad monetarists to forecast a boom. The catch is that official plans would undermine current conditions. The bond market is expecting further "savage" Budget cuts, which could negate much of the Bundesbank's good work; and the plan to finance cuts in employment taxes with a sharp rise in VAT could shake voters out of their romantic dreams.

These are not the only dangers. First, how much will low rates help? History suggests German growth and investment are more responsive to long-term interest rates than to money rates, and here policy has been much less successful. German bonds now yield more than their US counterparts — a familiar pattern in London, but a new and rather humiliating one in Frankfurt. Have investors noticed the US is now much nearer to Maastricht virtue than any EU member?

EMU itself is partly to blame for German bond troubles. Foreign investors are a little chary of D-mark bonds which may be valued in unknown euros. Any suggestion of fudge on the Maastricht rules will make them chancier; and we already have a steep yield curve. This does not usually promise growth; and it may well inhibit Bubba from more cuts to reduce overvaluation of the core European currencies.

If Germany gets a shock, such as Holland's, the political mood could become very fragile. Small wonder, then, that some of Kohl's supporters want an easier timetable. For the present, he will follow the Major strategy, and keep his fingers crossed. But next year?

Annual Meeting of Shareholders

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Thursday, May 9, 1996, 10:00 a.m. at BASF-Feierabendhaus, Leuschnerstraße 47, Ludwigshafen/Rhine, Germany

Agenda

1. Presentation of the Financial Statements of BASF Aktiengesellschaft and BASF Group for 1995; presentation of the 1995 Annual Report covering BASF Aktiengesellschaft and the BASF Group; presentation of the Supervisory Board Report.
2. Declaration of dividend.
3. Ratification of the actions of the Supervisory Board.
4. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Executive Directors.
5. Appointment of an auditor.
6. Authorization of the Board of Executive Directors to issue bonds with warrants of the company; creation of conditional capital.
7. Reduction in the nominal value of a proportion of the shares issued by the company.

Shareholders wishing to participate in the Annual Meeting and to exercise their right to vote must have deposited their shares during normal office hours and in the prescribed form at a depository bank. The shares should remain deposited until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Shareholders have the right to vote by proxy. Depository banks and the full Agenda are published in the "Bundesanzeiger" of the German Federal Republic Nr. 60 of March 26, 1996.

Depository banks in the U.K.:

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited
S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

The deposit is only effective if the shares are submitted by Thursday, May 2, 1996.

The Board of Executive Directors
Ludwigshafen/Rhine,
March 26, 1996

BASF Aktiengesellschaft
67056 Ludwigshafen

BASF



From left, Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, Malcolm Rifkind, and Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister

BUSINESS LETTERS

The real question for Britain's petrol forecourt giants

From Dr Marcel Cohen
Sir, I write in response to articles on March 1 on the BP and Mobil forecourt link-up.

My own research shows that Mobil's trading territory has less overlap with other brands than its competitors. Therefore a link-up with Mobil is an attractive proposition for petrol companies wishing to access "new" sales. No doubt BP will have done its own homework and arrived at the same conclusion. BP and

Mobil tell us that increasing the volumes base will save costs. However, "buying" new volumes does not address the underlying question — why is volume falling in the first place?

You do not need an MBA to work out the main problem facing petrol marketers is that motorists perceive little or no difference between competing brands. Surely it is this issue that oil companies should address.

In April, The Management School will hold a one-week seminar "marketing for petrol marketers" when this very point will be discussed. Surprisingly, only a handful of petrol companies believe they should attend. Yours faithfully, MARCEL COHEN, Lecturer in Marketing, Imperial College Management School, 53 Prince's Gate, Exhibition Road, SW7.

Lloyd's losses

From Mr John Pincham
Sir, Will the DTI require hardpressed British members of Lloyd's to pay shares of losses not collectible from non-paying American members as well as shares of losses not collectible from dead, bankrupt and elusive members? Yours faithfully, JOHN PINCHAM (County Councillor — Claygate and Hinchley Wood), 35 Lodge Close, Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey.

Finland flies the European Union flag

From Mr Donald Tait
Sir, It appears from Anthony Harris's article on March 30 about the EU unemployment problem that his antipathy towards things "European" has clouded slightly his memory. Finland became a mem-

ber of the European Union in January 1995. Perhaps he meant Norway, or somewhere totally different. Yours faithfully, DONALD TAIT, 29 Sint-Katelijne Straat, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

Let the marketing director get in the picture

From Mr Noel Gee
Sir, At company annual report time we always seem to be shown a picture of the chief executive accompanied by the finance director. Ought this not to be the marketing director? After all,

he generates the company income: the finance man only has to count it. Yours faithfully, NOEL GEE, 4 Rushmead Ham, Richmond Surrey.

Charter leaps to £104m and seeks big buy

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

CHARTER, the industrial products company, yesterday announced full-year profits of £103.7 million, compared with £55.7 million for a nine-month period in 1994, and said it was seeking a big acquisition.

Jeffrey Herbert, chief executive, said the company wanted to buy "a market-leading industrial business" for about £250 million. But he added that while it had looked at a number of options, no purchase was imminent. Mr Herbert was also confident about the outlook for the company this year. He said: "We view the future with confidence. The acquisition of Esab has been successfully bedded in and the business is led by an experienced and dedicated team."

The City was impressed by the results and shares in the company rose 14p to close at 895p. Turnover rose from £527 million for the nine months in 1994 to £1.1 billion in 1995. Earnings per share on a comparable nine-month period rose 71 per cent to 76.5p. The total 27.5p dividend represents a rise of 14.6 per cent on an annualised basis.

Esab, the welding division, produced profits of £74.6 million in its first full year since acquisition. The company said it had performed strongly in all its main markets except Germany but that it was confident of improving its position this year.

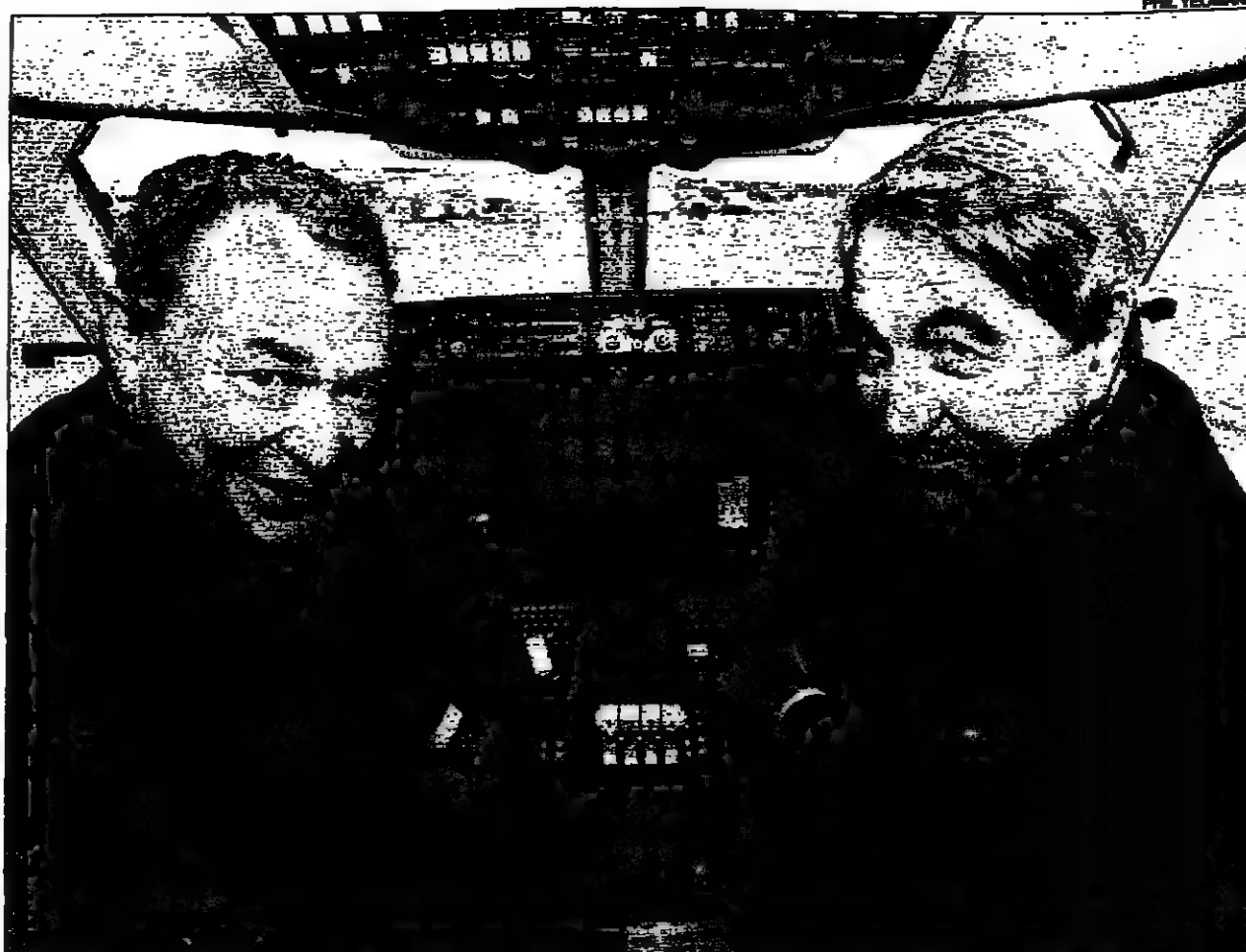
Pandrol, the rail track arm, increased profits from £9.6 million (nine months) to £15 million. The building materials division also improved in spite of the weakness in the European construction market and registered profits of £12.4 million compared with £9.6 million (nine months). The net margin rate rose to 9.2 per cent. Gearing fell to 17 per cent after £80 million of disposals last year. A final dividend of 19p is payable on May 24.

Tempus, page 28

Bid defence cost Country Casuals £1m

COUNTRY CASUALS incurred costs of £1.1 million defending itself against a takeover bid by John Shannon, its former chief executive, last year, the fashion group said yesterday.

In spite of the exceptional charge, the company made pre-tax profits of £249,000 for the year to January 27, up from losses of £987,000 in the previous year. Earnings per share were 0.60p, against losses of 4.45p. The total dividend rises to 5.41p, from 4.3p, with a 4p final. The shares rose 2p to 150p. Sales from ongoing businesses rose by 9.7 per cent, to £52.8 million.



Mike Stacey, left, chief executive, and Terry Twigger, finance director, of Meggitt, where there has been substantial restructuring

Meggitt loss reaches £22m

MEGGITT, the engineering company that underwent a substantial restructuring last year, has disclosed losses of £22.7 million before tax for 1995, compared with losses of £468,000 in the previous 12 months.

Latest losses include a provision of £19.9 million against the proposed disposal of Plastic Fabricating, a subsidiary. In spite of the substantial cost of reshaping the business, Meggitt is maintaining the total dividend at 3.93p a share, with a 2.63p final.

Iceland ahead for 25th time

By SARAH RAGNALL

THE benefits of a big marketing campaign together with a tighter strategic focus helped Iceland Group, the frozen food retailer, celebrate its 25th year of consecutive profits growth.

The group added that during this year it plans to spend £25 million on refitting more than 100 of its older stores and plans to open 40 more. Last year Iceland opened 56 new stores, lifting the total to 752. The group's capital expenditure is expected to rise £9

million to £75 million because of the new store openings, refurbishments and planned investment in IT systems.

Pre-tax profits edged ahead 3.4 per cent from £70.2 million to £72.6 million on sales up 5.6 per cent at £1.4 billion in the year to December 30.

Food sales rose 5.8 per cent to £1.3 billion, in spite of an autumn fall in like-for-like sales. In September, in an attempt to counter this, a big marketing campaign was

launched, coinciding with its 25th anniversary. Malcolm Walker, chairman and chief executive, said: "This resulted in a turnaround in like-for-like food sales from minus 3.5 per cent in the first nine weeks of the second half to 2 per cent growth in the final 17 weeks."

The final 3.6p dividend, due May 24, makes a year's total of 5.25p, up 25 per cent from last time. Earnings per share rose 1.8 per cent to 17p. The shares gained 3p to 155p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Higher volume lifts Lloyd Thompson

NEW contracts with British Telecom, Halifax Building Society, and KIZ helped increase business for Lloyd Thompson Group, the international insurance and reinsurance broker, for the six months to December 31. Brokerage rose 8 per cent to £23.1 million from higher volume, while pre-tax profit increased 14 per cent to £10.4 million.

Ken Carter, chief executive, said results for the first half had benefited from a high level of investment income, although, given the decline in interest rates in recent months, this was unlikely to be maintained in the second half. The interim dividend is lifted to 3p (2.75p).

ALP in property sale

ALLIED LONDON PROPERTY has raised £42 million through the sale of 12 investment properties to an unidentified, private property company. The portfolio included office, industrial and retail properties with a book value of £40.9 million. Net rental income of the properties is £4.2 million a year, ALP said. The company also reported a decline in pre-tax profits to £4.2 million in the six months to the end of December from £5.89 million in the first half of the previous year. The interim dividend is held at 1.18p.

Barr & Wallace slides

BARR & WALLACE ARNOLD TRUST, the motor retail and leisure group, is maintaining the total dividend for 1995 at 11p a share, with an unchanged 8p final payout, after a decline in annual profits to £4.6 million before tax from £5.6 million. Earnings were 20.8p a share against 22.3p. The company said overheads and gearing were reduced, strengthening the balance sheet. Trading so far this year was generally in line with the board's expectations and was ahead of last year. The shares fell 4p to 22p.

Barclays picks Norwich

NORWICH UNION has beaten competition from Royal Insurance and Commercial Union to supply household insurance products to Barclays Insurance Services (Bisco). Norwich Union will provide personal general insurance products and claims services to Bisco's 500,000 customers in a deal worth more than £100 million a year in premium income. Norwich Union will provide a 24-hour claims service, starting with household clients, to be followed by other personal insurance projects. Bisco had been using a panel of insurers.

Wetherspoon funding

JD WETHERSPOON, the acquisitive UK pub operator, is raising £13.5 million through a private placing of shares in America. Institutional investors have subscribed for 1.8 million new shares, representing 5 per cent of the company's share capital, at 786p each. Existing shares put on 39p to 830p yesterday. The company said that the proceeds of the placing, combined with recently agreed additional bank facilities, will be used to fund further expansion.

Hamleys thanks tourists

Hamleys, the self-styled finest toyshop in the world, showed the benefits of a mini tourist boom in 1995 with a £750,000 rise in pre-tax profits to £6.4 million in the year to January 27.

The flagship Regent Street store in London achieved a 10 per cent sales increase and stores at Covent Garden, Heathrow and serving the Chunnel Tunnel achieved combined growth of 42 per cent.

Howard Dyer, the chairman, said: "Current trading is ahead of last year, although the impact of the potential return of terrorism is an unknown factor." The dividend is raised from 7p to 8.1p, with a 5.4p final, on earnings per share of 19.3p, compared with 21.2p.

Upton back to the black

Upton & Southern, the department stores group that came close to collapse last summer after putting the Reject Shop chain into receivership, returned to profit in the 26 weeks to January 27.

The retailer made a pre-tax profit of £274,000 on sales of £4.8 million compared with a £1.2 million loss last time on sales of £20.6 million. There is no final dividend.

Boxmore boost

Boxmore International, the packaging company based in Northern Ireland, lifted pre-tax profits to £11.1 million in 1995 from £7.05 million in 1994. Total dividend rises to 5.28p a share from 4.48p, with a 3.66p final. Harold Ennis, chairman, said that although a cautious view may be taken of European economies, many export markets are still buoyant. The shares rose 20p to 502p.

Mature savings

More than £4 billion of National Savings 36th Issue of Savings Certificates and Series C Capital Bonds will begin to mature on April 2, five years after their purchase date. All will have matured by May 2 1997. The Government's savings arm estimates that, based on previous experience, 65-75 per cent of the maturing funds will be reinvested into Capital Bonds, the current series is J, Fixed Rate and index-linked Savings Certificates.

Crest cover

The Treasury yesterday issued a consultation document outlining proposed amendments to the Financial Services Act that will give investors better protection when Crest, the new computerised and paperless share settlement system, comes into effect in July.

ITINERARY

A day at the heart of Europe's software industry

If you're in software, here's a program you shouldn't miss.

09.30 Arrive at Locate in Scotland's HQ, Glasgow. Here you'll be met by Colin Murphy, your Locate in Scotland representative for the day.

10.00 Your official welcome to Scotland! An overview of the Scottish software sector by John McClelland, Head of Scottish Enterprise's Software Group.

10.45 A brief summary of financial support and existing schemes for software companies in Scotland, by Alan Bell, Software Manager, LE.

11.15 Depart for Forth Valley Software Centre.

12.00 Arrive at Forth Valley Software Centre, at Stirling. Lunch with Eileen Roberts, Chief Executive of Forth Valley Enterprise.

12.45 Depart for Livingston Software Innovation Centre.

13.00 Arrive at Livingston Software Innovation Centre. Meeting with David Lindsay, a senior manager at the centre. A tour of the centre's facilities and a presentation by David Lindsay.

13.45 Depart for Glasgow.

14.00 Arrive at Cray Systems. Meeting with Peter Cray, Chairman of Cray Systems.

14.30 Depart for US HQ.

17.30 Depart for Edinburgh for dinner.

IN SCOTLAND

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Electronics are big in Lothian. There are 175 electronics firms employing some 16,000 people. In terms of production, Mitsubishi Livingston has delivered the fastest growth of any plant outside Japan. NEC are currently re-investing over £530 million to produce the next generation of memory chips. Other top names here include Motorola, Sun Microsystems and Hewlett Packard. In turn they have spawned hundreds of service companies. And there's plenty of space for more, no matter how big or small. Find out how you might fit in. Call 0131 313 4000.

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LOTHIAN

Gilts and equities suffer losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
366	470	465	Adnoca	465	-5	-1.1	12.7
367	470	465	Adnoca	465	-5	-1.1	12.7
368	470	465	Adnoca	465	-5	-1.1	12.7
369	470	465	Adnoca	465	-5	-1.1	12.7
370	470	465	Adnoca	465	-5	-1.1	12.7
371	470	465	Adnoca	465	-5	-1.1	12.7
372	470	465	Adnoca	465	-5	-1.1	12.7
373	470	465	Adnoca	465	-5	-1.1	12.7
374	470	465	Adnoca	465	-5	-1.1	12.7
375	470	465	Adnoca	465	-5	-1.1	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BANKS							
319	127	126	ABN-AMRO	126	-1	-0.8	10.3
320	127	126	ABN-AMRO	126	-1	-0.8	10.3
321	127	126	ABN-AMRO	126	-1	-0.8	10.3
322	127	126	ABN-AMRO	126	-1	-0.8	10.3
323	127	126	ABN-AMRO	126	-1	-0.8	10.3
324	127	126	ABN-AMRO	126	-1	-0.8	10.3
325	127	126	ABN-AMRO	126	-1	-0.8	10.3
326	127	126	ABN-AMRO	126	-1	-0.8	10.3
327	127	126	ABN-AMRO	126	-1	-0.8	10.3
328	127	126	ABN-AMRO	126	-1	-0.8	10.3

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BREWERS, PUBS & REST							
36	42	41	Adnoca	41	-1	-2.4	12.7
37	42	41	Adnoca	41	-1	-2.4	12.7
38	42	41	Adnoca	41	-1	-2.4	12.7
39	42	41	Adnoca	41	-1	-2.4	12.7
40	42	41	Adnoca	41	-1	-2.4	12.7
41	42	41	Adnoca	41	-1	-2.4	12.7
42	42	41	Adnoca	41	-1	-2.4	12.7
43	42	41	Adnoca	41	-1	-2.4	12.7
44	42	41	Adnoca	41	-1	-2.4	12.7
45	42	41	Adnoca	41	-1	-2.4	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT							
17	40	39	Adnoca	39	-1	-2.5	12.7
18	40	39	Adnoca	39	-1	-2.5	12.7
19	40	39	Adnoca	39	-1	-2.5	12.7
20	40	39	Adnoca	39	-1	-2.5	12.7
21	40	39	Adnoca	39	-1	-2.5	12.7
22	40	39	Adnoca	39	-1	-2.5	12.7
23	40	39	Adnoca	39	-1	-2.5	12.7
24	40	39	Adnoca	39	-1	-2.5	12.7
25	40	39	Adnoca	39	-1	-2.5	12.7
26	40	39	Adnoca	39	-1	-2.5	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BUILDING MATERIALS							
15	37	36	Adnoca	36	-1	-2.7	12.7
16	37	36	Adnoca	36	-1	-2.7	12.7
17	37	36	Adnoca	36	-1	-2.7	12.7
18	37	36	Adnoca	36	-1	-2.7	12.7
19	37	36	Adnoca	36	-1	-2.7	12.7
20	37	36	Adnoca	36	-1	-2.7	12.7
21	37	36	Adnoca	36	-1	-2.7	12.7
22	37	36	Adnoca	36	-1	-2.7	12.7
23	37	36	Adnoca	36	-1	-2.7	12.7
24	37	36	Adnoca	36	-1	-2.7	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ENGINEERING							
34	21	20	Adnoca	20	-1	-4.8	12.7
35	21	20	Adnoca	20	-1	-4.8	12.7
36	21	20	Adnoca	20	-1	-4.8	12.7
37	21	20	Adnoca	20	-1	-4.8	12.7
38	21	20	Adnoca	20	-1	-4.8	12.7
39	21	20	Adnoca	20	-1	-4.8	12.7
40	21	20	Adnoca	20	-1	-4.8	12.7
41	21	20	Adnoca	20	-1	-4.8	12.7
42	21	20	Adnoca	20	-1	-4.8	12.7
43	21	20	Adnoca	20	-1	-4.8	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
CHEMICALS							
198	145	144	Adnoca	144	-1	-0.7	12.7
199	145	144	Adnoca	144	-1	-0.7	12.7
200	145	144	Adnoca	144	-1	-0.7	12.7
201	145	144	Adnoca	144	-1	-0.7	12.7
202	145	144	Adnoca	144	-1	-0.7	12.7
203	145	144	Adnoca	144	-1	-0.7	12.7
204	145	144	Adnoca	144	-1	-0.7	12.7
205	145	144	Adnoca	144	-1	-0.7	12.7
206	145	144	Adnoca	144	-1	-0.7	12.7
207	145	144	Adnoca	144	-1	-0.7	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
DISTRIBUTORS							
107	47	46	Adnoca	46	-1	-2.1	12.7
108	47	46	Adnoca	46	-1	-2.1	12.7
109	47	46	Adnoca	46	-1	-2.1	12.7
110	47	46	Adnoca	46	-1	-2.1	12.7
111	47	46	Adnoca	46	-1	-2.1	12.7
112	47	46	Adnoca	46	-1	-2.1	12.7
113	47	46	Adnoca	46	-1	-2.1	12.7
114	47	46	Adnoca	46	-1	-2.1	12.7
115	47	46	Adnoca	46	-1	-2.1	12.7
116	47	46	Adnoca	46	-1	-2.1	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES							
175	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
176	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
177	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
178	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
179	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
180	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
181	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
182	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
183	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
184	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
FOOD MANUFACTURERS							
175	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
176	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
177	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
178	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
179	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
180	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
181	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
182	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
183	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7
184	125	124	Adnoca	124	-1	-0.8	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
LEISURE & HOTELS							
47	30	29	Adnoca	29	-1	-3.3	12.7
48	30	29	Adnoca	29	-1	-3.3	12.7
49	30	29	Adnoca	29	-1	-3.3	12.7
50	30	29	Adnoca	29	-1	-3.3	12.7
51	30	29	Adnoca	29	-1	-3.3	12.7
52	30	29	Adnoca	29	-1	-3.3	12.7
53	30	29	Adnoca	29	-1	-3.3	12.7
54	30	29	Adnoca	29	-1	-3.3	12.7
55	30	29	Adnoca	29	-1	-3.3	12.7
56	30	29	Adnoca	29	-1	-3.3	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
HOUSEHOLD GOODS							
32	17	16	Adnoca	16	-1	-5.9	12.7
33	17	16	Adnoca	16	-1	-5.9	12.7
34	17	16	Adnoca	16	-1	-5.9	12.7
35	17	16	Adnoca	16	-1	-5.9	12.7
36	17	16	Adnoca	16	-1	-5.9	12.7
37	17	16	Adnoca	16	-1	-5.9	12.7
38	17	16	Adnoca	16	-1	-5.9	12.7
39	17	16	Adnoca	16	-1	-5.9	12.7
40	17	16	Adnoca	16	-1	-5.9	12.7
41	17	16	Adnoca	16	-1	-5.9	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
INSURANCE							
165	175	174	Adnoca	174	-1	-0.6	12.7
166	175	174	Adnoca	174	-1	-0.6	12.7
167	175	174	Adnoca	174	-1	-0.6	12.7
168	175	174	Adnoca	174	-1	-0.6	12.7
169	175	174	Adnoca	174	-1	-0.6	12.7
170	175	174	Adnoca	174	-1	-0.6	12.7
171	175	174	Adnoca	174	-1	-0.6	12.7
172	175	174	Adnoca	174	-1	-0.6	12.7
173	175	174	Adnoca	174	-1	-0.6	12.7
174	175	174	Adnoca	174	-1	-0.6	12.7

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
INVESTMENT TRUSTS							
447	33	32	Adnoca	32	-1	-3.0	12.7
448	33	32	Adnoca	32	-1	-3.0	12.7
449	33	32	Adnoca	32	-1	-3.0	12.7
450	33	32	Adnoca	32	-1	-3.0	12.7
451	33	32	Adnoca	32	-1	-3.0	12.7
452	33	32	Adnoca	32	-1	-3.0	12.7
453	33	32	Adnoca	32	-1	-3.0	12.7
454	33	32	Adnoca	32	-1	-3.0	12.7
455	33	32	Adnoca	32	-1	-3.0	12.7
456	33	32	Adnoca	32	-1	-3.0	12.7

100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
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TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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LONDON PROPERTY

This *Easter* weekend, drop in for a glass, a bite, some words of wisdom and a peek at our 5 new showhomes.



2 BED APTS *from* £72,850
2 BED HOUSES *from* £79,350
3 BED HOUSES *from* £93,350

It's Easter and it's all happening at Britannia Village. Why not change whatever plans you've made for any of the four days and drop in on the Royal Victoria Dock, where Wimpey Homes are embarking on the most exciting waterside development in London.

Waiting for your inspection are our five new fully furnished show homes, and our homebuying advisers will be delighted to show you round and answer any questions you may have.

Also on hand, at selected times, will be an Independent Financial Adviser who'll tell you everything you ever wanted to know about mortgages and finance, without charging you a penny, and a solicitor who'll be happy to offer free legal advice on buying one of these modern waterside homes.

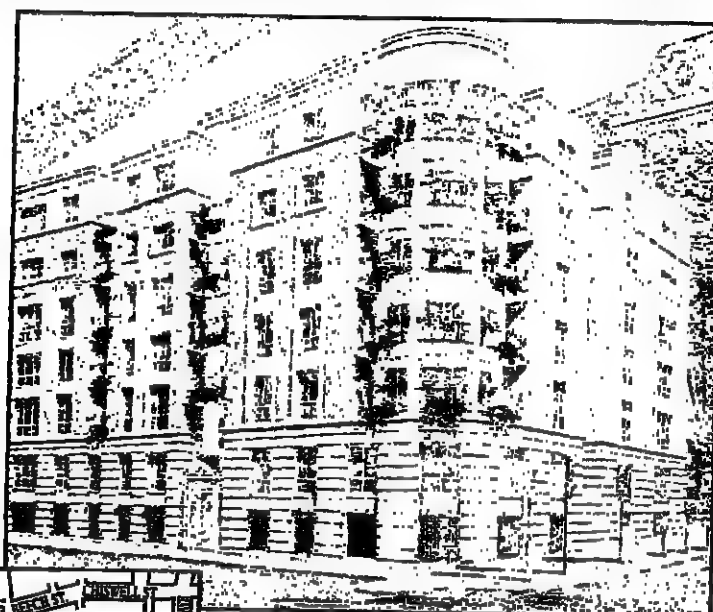
Still not tempted? Then how about something nice to eat and a glass of wine to wash it down. On the house.

Britannia Village is open from 10am to 6pm all four days of Easter. For further information and details of the weekend's events, call Sheila Whitbread or Steve Osmond on 0171 474 2200. <http://www.wimpey.co.uk/wimpey/britvlg.htm>

Wimpey Homes **BRITANNIA VILLAGE**
Royal Victoria Dock

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Situated on Postman's Park these beautifully appointed apartments are just a few hundred yards from St Paul's and within strolling distance of the Stock Exchange and the Bank of England.

At Little Britain you can avoid the stress, strain and expense of commuting and have more time to enjoy a better lifestyle. The new show apartment is open every day 10am to 6pm. Prices from £146,750.

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THEATRE 1

Both revered and neglected: 90 years after his birth, Samuel Beckett remains a controversial name



THEATRE 2

Fear and loathing among Irish decorators, explored in the fine *Brothers of the Brush*

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

In Liverpool a new concerto for saxophone quartet brings a repeat success for Philip Glass



YOUNG ARTS

How a teenage piano prodigy prepares for the biggest challenge of his life

Samuel Beckett would have been 90 next month. Andy Lavender assesses the great man's place in the Nineties

Act one, scene one: Enter Godot

In some quarters, they are gearing up for the ninetieth anniversary, on April 13, of the birth of Samuel Beckett. A clutch of festivals and conferences in Europe and America suggests that Beckett's status as a towering genius of the 20th century will be roundly celebrated. In other quarters, however, they know nothing and care just as little about this recondite figure, birthday or not.

Just go into bookshops in this country and try to find Beckett's novels (for some admirers, he is among the most skilful exponents of the form). You might know of *Waiting for Godot* or *Endgame*. Beckett's most famous plays. But what of *A Piece of Monologue*, *What Where or Catastrophe*? Has Beckett suffered the fate of the too-clever-by-half writer: revered within academia, ignored elsewhere? That would be a shame. This was the man, after all, who in his early twenties moved from his native Dublin to Paris, where he quickly became a friend of James Joyce. Who escaped, by only a few hours, deportation to a Nazi concentration camp during the Second World War. And who rose to (not exactly welcome) prominence as a pioneer of postwar existentialism.

Beckett's work, it seemed, came smack at the turning-point of the 20th century, when modernism was whittled into something even more extraordinarily lean. Who but Beckett could have written a drama, *Not I*, whose central "character" is an illuminated mouth? Or another, *Breath, Smell, Taste*, whose characters are two faint cries and lasting for about 35 seconds?

The whys and wherefores of this strangely shaped body of work will be pondered in various corners of the globe over the next weeks and months. Imagine being a Beckett expert at such a time, caught in a cycle of duties of, well, Beckettian proportions.

You learn so much about theatre from him; that's what is such a joy?

James Knowlson, Beckett's authorised biographer, is due to put in an appearance this weekend at a Goldsmiths' University of London, conference focusing on Beckett's time in London in the 1930s. Knowlson will then jet off to give a keynote lecture in Strasbourg, and will be speaking in Florence in May. In between, he is correcting the proofs of *Damned to Fame: The Life of Samuel Beckett*, which will be published in September.

Knowlson knew Beckett for the last 20 years of the author's life, and interviewed him a number of times during the months before his death in 1989. He promises a number of new angles on the writer. The first, he says, will counter the impression of Beckett as a "miserabilist", concerned only to point out the pointlessness of life. "He was such good fun," Knowlson says. "Dinners, meetings, drinks — you couldn't actually talk to Beckett without bursting into hoots of laughter."

But before you conjure up a remorselessly misanthropic character, Knowlson emphasises Beckett's quietly ethical dimension. "Everyone says that this guy is apolitical. But he joined the French Resistance, he banned all his plays from being produced in South Africa and — what hasn't been known until now — he gave all his Polish royalties to victims of the oppression of Solidarity."

Knowlson points to another new revelation. "Nobody has realised yet that Beckett was a connoisseur of painting, of the great masters. His own images can be seen to be inspired by Rembrandt and Dürer and 'Amorino'. When you look at some of these paintings you see Beckett's figures."

Beckett's work certainly offers the most striking images, both complex and simple — like the parents in dustbins in *Endgame*, or the five-second, toothless smile of *Listener* at



"He was such good fun," says Beckett's official biographer about the famous "miserabilist". "You couldn't talk to him without bursting into laughter."

the end of *That Time*. I must declare an interest here, having directed the production of Beckett's *Act Without Words I* and *II*, currently at the BAC Theatre in London. Both pieces are mime dramas with a clownish tinge, but working on them is like opening a Russian doll: the more you look, the more layers there are.

Tom Morris, the BAC's artistic director, is staging a production of *All That Fall* as his contribution to the venue's Beckett season. Why present a play written for radio in the theatre? "For the most part radio is listened to as a chatty

voice in the corner of your kitchen," Morris says. "My starting point was, what would it be like to engulf the audience in a sound world in total darkness? As you read the play your head is completely enveloped in noise, whether it's a crowing cockerel or the sounds of an arthritic old man levering a 200lb woman into his car. It is written with this fantastic aural imagination."

Across the Thames, Katie Mitchell is preparing a production of *Endgame* for the Donmar Warehouse. She argues that the play, although

written in 1956, seems especially contemporary. "The context for it is an apocalypse or Armageddon which Beckett left entirely ambiguous," she explains. "For as long as the human race lasts there will always be this great fear that it will all end, be it through the nuclear bomb or the collapse of the ozone layer. And there's where he is contextualising what is in effect a family drama."

Perhaps this sense of dealing with current concerns — albeit doomy ones — will rescue Beckett from his potential isolation within the semi-

nar rooms of academia. "There is a real danger in the fact that he has become part of the syllabus, a classic," says Keir Elam, who is organising the conference in Florence and contributing to the one in London. He reports, though, that Beckett is enjoying something approaching popular acclaim in Italy.

"All the prose works have just been republished in a new Italian translation. They're read, and there's a great deal of debate about them. The plays are very much performed and nearly all the major actors in Italy have tried

to come to grips with Beckett. He's had enormous influence, partly in ways of conceiving the use of the stage. He taught directors how to simplify."

Mitchell echoes this theme. "You learn about theatre," she says. "You learn so much, that's what is such a joy."

● The Goldsmiths conference, Beckett, London and Other Matters, runs from Friday to Sunday (0171-491 7220).
● *Act Without Words* and *All That Fall* are part of the Beckett season at the BAC (0171-223 2223).
● *Endgame* opens at the Donmar Warehouse (0171-369 1732) on April 11.

● *Julien Cheriyan* plays Grieg's Piano Concerto at Wells Cathedral (01749 672970) tomorrow night at 7.30pm. Tickets £6.
● The finals of the BBC's Young Musician '96 competition is on Sunday at 2.45pm in Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121 212333), broadcast on BBC2 at 7pm.

Ragged-trouserred unphilanthropists

Brothers of the Brush Arts

WITH the polls suggesting that insecurity at work worries the British more than anything else, Jimmy Murphy's new play is undoubtedly timely. It may be set in Dublin and it may involve house-painters, but it does not take huge imagination to transpose its action to a hundred thousand offices on this side of the Irish Sea. *Brothers of the Brush* is a nightmare for the 1990s: a killer-fantasy in which virtue goes unrewarded, vice stays unpunished and poetic injustice flourishes.

That does not sound like a recipe for a fun evening, and there are times when Murphy's tale of three wrangling decorators and their gaffer seems repetitive and doggedly realistic. But plays do not win loads of awards in 1990s Ireland, as *Brothers of the Brush* has done, without having plenty going for them.

Murphy's writing and Lynne Parker's strong cast generate a surprising amount of tension, intensity and meaning from "small" lives. And judging by the gasps of horror near me, I was not the only person in the audience who ended up ready to leap on stage and grab the triumphant villain by the throat.

Martin's three employees — Lar, Heno and his Uncle Jack — are drawing the dole while simultaneously earning £25 a day from him for painting a basement. Bad feeling, already festering below the surface, erupts when he gives the job of foreman to Lar instead of the more senior Jack. Quite how men who are theoretically unemployed can go on strike and even mount an amateurish picket is not easy to understand: but Heno and Jack contrive to do so, with results that at first seem comic but have become ugly and distressing by the final curtain.

Still sounds an off-putting piece? But consider how much Murphy accomplishes with

his shabby Dublin microcosm. He creates a world not unlike the real-estate jungle of David Mamet's *Glenrory Glen*. Economic recession has brought competition so intense that few survive unless they bend or break the rules. Hence backhanders and bribes, hasty work and shoddy workmanship, and maximum exploitation of the black economy. But this does not mean that Murphy is writing the kind of dour propagandist piece fashionable when socialists still struck the idealistic as a cure-all.

On the contrary, he confronts every ideological expectation. Yes, Darragh Kelly's Martin is fly and tough — but how can you blame him when, as he says, it takes a week to read the names of every firm offering decorating services in the Yellow Pages. Yes, Stuart Graham's Lar is a bit of a boss's man — and why not, given the desperation and misery that unemployment has caused his family? Yes, Phelim Drew's Heno makes a stand for workers' rights, but in ways that suggest he has taken a degree in Advanced Lagism.

Brothers of the Brush these painters are not. Instead, Murphy and his cast show us manipulation and callousness in a dog-eat-dog substratum disturbingly akin to society as a whole — and not in any abstract way. They make you feel the pain of grovelling to the man from the mortgage company and the terror of such humiliations recurring. They give flesh, or rather gooseflesh, to contemporary insecurity.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Pianist Julien Cheriyan, one of the BBC Young Musicians '96 finalists, talks to Hilary Finch

At an echo's distance from the Great West Door of Wells Cathedral, in Somerset, the dance of Grieg's finale to his Piano Concerto is being pounded out on a sturdy old Bechstein in one of the cathedral school's practice rooms. Julien Cheriyan has momentarily put aside his A-level physics revision and is practising. On Monday, he won the piano final in the last heat of this year's BBC Young Musicians' competition, and he will be playing the concerto in the grand finale in Birmingham on Sunday.

His reasons for choosing the Grieg are revealing: "Because it is so overplayed! It is killed to death! I wanted to take on the challenge of seeing just what it would mean to me."

"Whenever I start learning a piece, I take it right away from the keyboard and just study the score in my head. That way you can explore everything. All I hope is that the work can be a new journey for the audience, too, however well they know the piece."

At 17, Cheriyan is in many ways an old hand on young shoulders. And he has reasons for thinking that his Grieg just might be a little different. Born in Kuwait to a family of Indian physicians, he fell for the piano after hearing Scott Joplin's piano rags, played every evening at closedown on Kuwait television. By the age of six he had chosen his instrument; at seven he was on to Grade 5 and on his way to Wells Cathedral school. But at 11, just as he had gone home for the summer holidays, Iraq invaded Kuwait and he found himself caught up in the Gulf War.

"It changed the way I perceived music and the way I now play," he says. "You see things simply when you are 11. You don't explore your feelings. The war forced me to look into things I wouldn't have dared to contemplate for many more years, like the idea that you could die. Many friends were involved in uprisings; many from our flats died,

After Saddam, a real test



"And to watch the Iraqi soldiers... they were some of the nicest people I'd met in the Middle East. But you'd watch them doing what they did, and you'd wonder if they were doing it because it was their job, or because they felt real hatred."

"Chopin is my favourite composer. Before the war, earlier in 1990, I'd been playing the *Revolutionary Etude*. Summer holidays came — and the invasion. When I turned to the piece again, for a concert, I found it had changed quite extraordinarily. It was a much, much deeper and more meaningful experience."

"There are such deep emotions there, such turmoil which, before, it had been impossible to access as a child. The war made me grow up."

Just as life had suddenly amplified music as Cheriyan's primary means of emotional expression and communication, so music had strengthened his own early days in England. When, as a small boy, he first set foot in Wells, it was music which enabled him to relate to those around him. "I'd grown up in a fairly Westernised culture, but there were still fundamental differences. There were certain things that you just didn't talk about here. In my family we talked about everything. Nothing went unsaid — even if later on there were fights!"

"And there was a little racism too, if I'm honest. I didn't really expect it here. But schoolkids of seven can be spiteful. And it was new for



The Gulf War helped Julien Cheriyan to grow up quickly

them, I guess, to have someone around who was, er, coloured, if that's the politically correct word at the moment."

But Cheriyan joined the

junior choir, played chamber music and met his teacher John Byrne, "who never stifled what I had to say musically". He is now set for a degree course in physics at Imperial

College, with music at the Royal College next door. His parents have retired to Wells, and, while his father turns his mind to his two great loves, philosophy and writing, Julien spends every spare minute rock-climbing. "I do have to be a bit careful, but I have fairly strong hands," he says in understatement.

"What I want to do most, though, is simply play. You should never enter a competition in order to win. I am just so thrilled that I have the chance to play — and to an audience. That opportunity to share what I think and feel is wonderful for me. It is my idea of heaven."

● *Julien Cheriyan* plays Grieg's Piano Concerto at Wells Cathedral (01749 672970) tomorrow night at 7.30pm. Tickets £6.
● The finals of the BBC's Young Musician '96 competition is on Sunday at 2.45pm in Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121 212333), broadcast on BBC2 at 7pm.

CONCERT

But where's the tune?

THE best way a composer can avoid having his works dismembered and reassembled on a compilation disc is to do the compilation himself.

Much of Philip Glass's new *Concerto for Saxophone Quartet* and Orchestra sounds like a collection of your favourite accompaniment figures, the best of them protected from the intrusion of anything like a tune so that their basic harmonies and simple rhythms can be appreciated for what they are.

The choice example is what might be described as the second subject of the first movement — a synopsed figure not unlike that which appears at the equivalent point in the *Unfinished Symphony*. Whereas Schubert is naive enough to offer his accompaniment figure only twice before imposing distracting melody on it, Glass repeats his in all its purity perhaps a hundred times over.

RLPO/
Maksymiak
Philharmonic
Hall, Liverpool

The advantage of passages like that is that they stimulate our own imagination. Although listeners to the Radio 3 broadcast of the (more or less) first British performance of the Glass concerto cannot have been aware of it, the Philharmonic Hall was reverberant with hundreds of unheard tunes drawn from the audience into the melodic vacuum.

The professional restraint of the RAS Saxophone Quartet in resisting the temptation to improvise a little linear interest here and there was only slightly less admirable than their virtuosity in the activity of the second and fourth movements. It was disappointing, however, that their encore was a Bach arrangement.

The virtue of Barber's *Adagio* for strings is that, as a fundamentally contrapuntal conception, it has no accompaniment figure. The sin of the *Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony*, on the other hand, is that it is based on one. But sin and religious sentiment have long been compatible partners in French artistic taste. Jerry Maksymiak, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and its sentimental organ proved to be as adept in exploiting that fruitful contradiction as they were in profiling the long-term structural progress of the work.

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...to Jonathan Miller's new production of *Idomeneo* at Florence's Maggio Musicale...



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Kate Bassett chooses the highlights of the summer season of European cultural jamborees, from Brescia to Vienna

Festive delights across the Continent

APRIL

Brescia-Bergamo Pianistico: Dozens of pianists descend on the two towns. Evgeny Kissin among them. Claudio Abbado conducts the Chamber Orchestra of Europe with Pavarotti.

April 22-June 16: Festival Pianistico Internazionale di Brescia e Bergamo, c/o Teatro Grande, 1-25121 Brescia, Italy (39 30 293022).

Budapest: The Budapest Spring has grown to a month to mark the 1,000th year of the Magyar settlement: classical musicians - mostly Hungarian - plus dance, drama and folk culture. The Budapest Summer falls in June with a flowering of theatre.

Budapest Spring until Apr 14: Budapest Summer June-Aug: Budapest Interart Festival, PO Box 80, H-1366 Budapest, Hungary (36 1 1178381).

Copenhagen, Cultural Capital of Europe '96: Strong theatre and dance from Stein, Mouchkine, Suzuki, Lepage. Meredith Monk, Pina Bausch and ballet troupes. Meanwhile, 96 artists create installations in cargo containers at the harbour. An acoustic project fills Copenhagen's plazas and parks with the sounds of other cities. Symphony orchestras in the summer. April for early music, jazz in July. *Hamlet: the Rock Ballet* will be floating on the moat at Elsinore.

All year: (Danish Tourist Board 0171-259 5958 or Copenhagen 96 on 45.33.779633).

Flanders: A range of music around the region. Early music blossoms most notably in Bruges (July-Aug). Contemporary composers elsewhere, while Brussels considers the sounds of eide (April-May). *To Die: Festival van Vlaanderen*, Ravensteinstraat 60, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium (32 2 5489955).

Monte Carlo: During the Printemps Des Arts, the Riviera glimmers with star concerts and young soloists. Kazia and Marielle Labèque tickle the ivories; James Galway pipes up. Compagnie Antonio Gaudes arrives with *Carmen* and *Fuente Ovejuna*.

April 6-May 12: Printemps des Arts, 8 rue Louis Notari, MC-98000 Monaco (33 93153303).

Schwetzingen: Spring music in the intimate rococo theatre and castle. Concerts with Barbara Moser and more. Scarlatti's *Mitridate* at Schwetzingen.

Florence Maggio Musicale: A big bout of opera including a new production of *Idomeneo* directed by Jonathan Miller. Graham Vick stages Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Also *Elektra* from Lev Dodin. Chamber music, recitals and a mini film fest. The Tokyo Ballet and al fresco activities in the amphitheatre.

May 2-June 27: Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Teatro Comunale, Via Sofferino 15, I-50123 Firenze, Italy (39.55.279-1).

Holland: Amsterdam's mega arts melange pays attention to contemporary composers, choreographers and theatre. Works by William Forsythe with the Nederlands Dans Theater. Premieres by Stockhausen, Donatoni, Kurtag, Xenakis. John Eliot Gardiner conducts Beethoven's *Leonore* staged as tableaux vivants. Martha Clarke directs a new opera about Marco Polo by Tan Dun.

May 31-June 30: Holland Festival Information, Kleine-Gartmanplantsoen 21, NL-1017 RP Amsterdam, Netherlands (31.20.6276566).

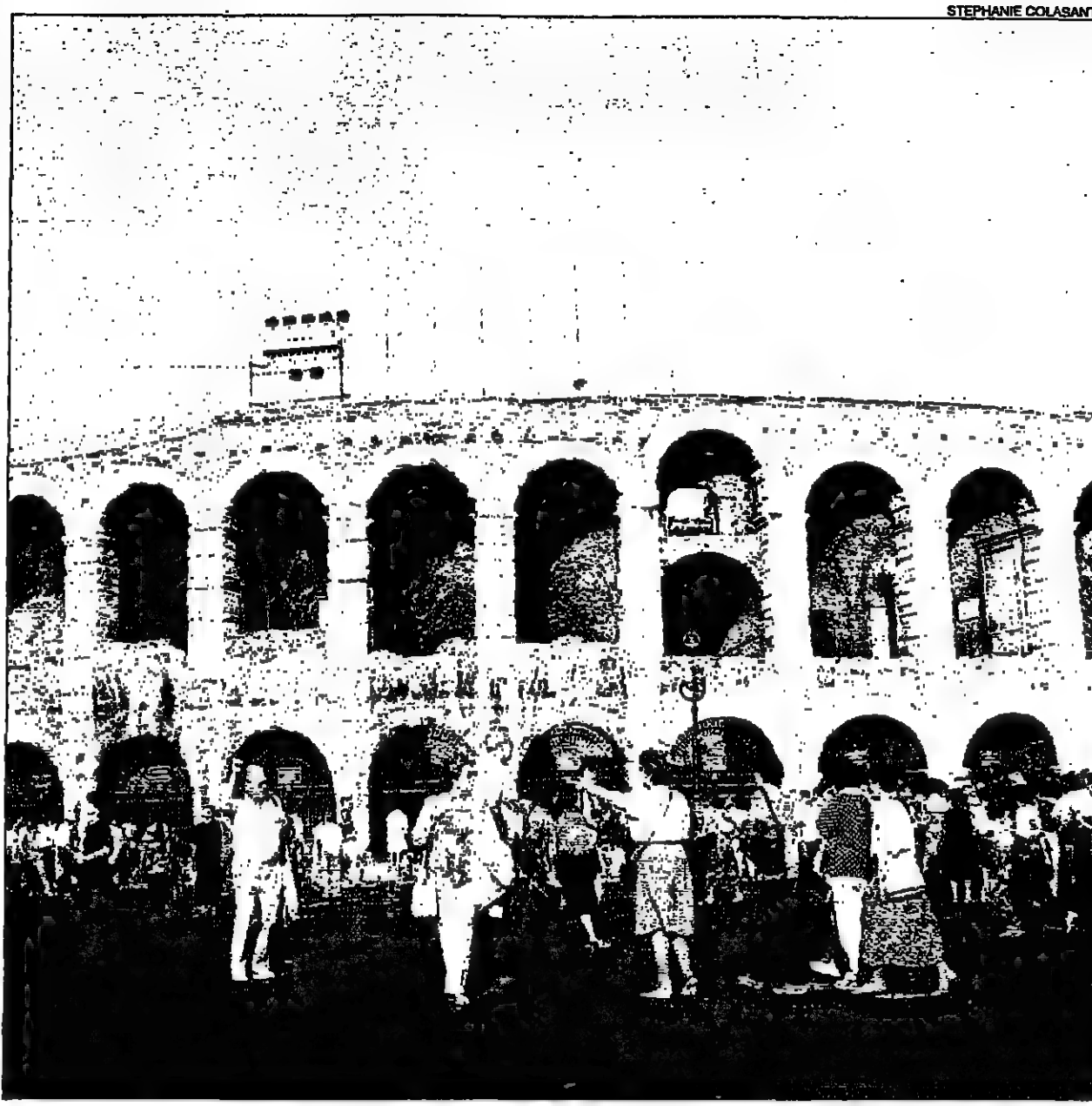
Ludwigsburg: Strewn with Baroque palaces, Ludwigsburg hosts high-class concerts and some opera. The vast Residenzschloss provides an intimate court theatre. More music in the capacious modern concert hall, which also encourages boundary-leaping creations. Choreographic highlights: Merce Cunningham and Trisha Brown.

May 31-Sept 15: Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, Postfach 1022, D-71610 Ludwigsburg, Germany (49.7141.9396-0).

Prague Spring: A fine frolic for classical music lovers. The Japan Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and the Moscow Soloists are on the cards. In the first week of September, Prague also hosts a Dvorak String Quartet Festival.

May 12-June 2: Prague Spring Festival, Heličova 18, 118 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic (42.2.532489).

Vienna: A grand and daring festival, featuring much theatre and music. Catch Robert Wilson's production of Marguerite Duras's *La Maladie de la mort*. Chekhov and Pushkin directed by Elmuntas Nekros, who was hailed as a genius by Arthur Miller. Meanwhile there are top-notch conductors and soloists: Riccardo Muti, Riccardo Chailly and Dame Kiri among them. Vienna focuses, warily, on Austrian culture, plus lucky takes on Danube waltzes, and ballet to be viewed with 3-D glasses.



The arena at Verona, where thousands enjoy open-air stagings of opera in the Roman amphitheatre each summer

Granada: Granada plays tribute to Manuel de Falla on the fiftieth anniversary of his death. The festival also includes works by his Parisian friends Debussy, Ravel and Stravinsky. There are recitals in the Arab courtyards of the Alhambra; symphonies in the monumental Palacio de Carlos V; and - in the gypsy neighbourhood of Sacromonte - flamenco soirées.

June 21-July 7: Festival Internacional de Musica y Danza, PO Box 64, E-18080 Granada, Spain (34.58.22211).

Ravenna: Opera: Roberto De Simone's Neapolitan *Costi* with the Vienna Philharmonic. Also Rattle and Boulez. Dance with Antonio Gades. Theatre: Marco Martelli stages *All'Inferno*, dedicated to Aristophanes, in the Sulpur Warehouses at the Docks.

June 16-July 21: Ravenna Festival, Via Dante Alighieri 1, I-48100 Ravenna, Italy (39.544.213995).

Reykjavik Arts Festival: The biennial is back in the Icelandic capital. An opera premiere from Jon Asgerisson: *Butch* dance from the USA; pop with David Bowie, Björk and Pulp. Through June: Reykjavik Arts Festival, P.O. Box 88, Is-121 Reykjavik, Iceland (354.5612444).

St. Petersburg White Nights: The sun scarcely sets and the Maryinsky Theatre, formerly the Kirov, offers opera, ballet and concerts. Bands in the streets. Night boat trips along the Neva. St. Petersburg has also been picked for European Month Of Culture in June. Last two weeks of June: (Intourist 071-538 8600).

Schleswig-Holstein: Classical music in churches and country barns round Germany's most northerly state.

June 25-Aug 20: Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival Info, Jerusalemberg 7, D-23568, Lübeck, Germany (49.451.38957-0).

Spoletto: Operas and concerts in Umbria including Handel's *Semele* and Mahler in the piazza. A spot of dance, theatre, cinema and art too.

June 26-July 14: Associazione Festival Del Due Mondi, Via Cesare Beccaria 18, I-00196 Roma, Italy (39.6.3210288).

Umea/Korsholm: Cellist Frans Helmerson's linked music festivals celebrate Brahms and others. Midsummer nights and intimate concerts in small towns by the sea.

Umea Chamber Music Festival, June 15-19 (46.90.163466), Korsholm Music Festival, FIN-65610 Korsholm/Mustasaari, Finland (358.61.322 2390).

Verona: There are two biennales scheduled: one for film (Aug 28-Sept 7: 39.41.521871); the other for architecture in the international pavilions. The latter's theme is libraries.

Architecture Biennale from Sept 6: (Brett Rogers at the British Council 0171-389 3032).

Verona: Make merry with a melody of the arts.

July 17-28: Galway Festival, P.O. Box 123, Galway, Ireland (353.91.583800).

Gstaad: Music among the Alps. Join founder Yehudi Menuhin in a giant tent and good company: Yuri Bashmet, Thomas Allen et al. On the side Carl Davis conducts the music for Chaplin movies.

July 19-Sept 7: Musiksommer Gstaad-Saanenland, Menuhin Festival/Alpengala AG, Postfach 382, CH-3780 Gstaad, Switzerland (41.30.48838).

Bregenz: On Lake Constance with a floating stage, Bregenz celebrates its fiftieth. Rare operas and new sounds. Strauss's *King Arthur*, Beethoven's *Fidelio* revived and a premiere from Georg Friedrich Haas. Orchestral concert and drama from Berlin's Deutsches Theater.

July 20-Aug 23: Bregenz Festival, Postfach 311, A-6901 Bregenz, Austria (43.5574.4920-223).

Dubrovnik: Music, drama and folk art in the now-peaceful city.

July 10-Aug 25: Dubrovnik Festival, P.O. Box 132, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia (385.20.412288).

Salzburg: Outstanding music surrounded by elegant Baroque architecture. Masses of opera including Schoenberg's *Moses and Aron* from Pierre Boulez and Peter Stein who also directs *The Cherry Orchard*. Top orchestras under Solti, Mehta and more.

July 20-Aug 31: Salzburger Festspiele, Postfach 140, A-5010 Salzburg, Austria (43.662.8045).

Savonlinna: Operas and concerts in the courtyard of Olavinlinna Castle. Wagner's *Tannhäuser* together with *The Flying Dutchman*. The Maryinsky Theatre's *Mazeppa*.

July 6-Aug 3: Savonlinna Opera Festival, Olavinlinna, FIN-57130 Savonlinna, Finland (358.37.576750).

Torre Del Lago Puccini, Lucca: Puccini's operas by the composer's villa. *La Bohème*, *Manon Lescaut* and *Turandot* on a stage that juts over the lake.

July 20-Aug 17: (39.584.350567).

Vadstena Academy: New and rare early operas in Vadstena's Old Theatre within the monastery walls and at Wassa Castle. Georg Benda's *Waldner* with period instruments, then Carl Unander-Scharin's new *Tokufursten* ("The King of Fools").

July 3-Aug 10: Before June 1-Vadstena Academy, Bergsgatan 57, S-112 31 Stockholm, Sweden (46.8.6526180). After June 1: Vadstena Academy, Lastkopingsgatan, S-592 32 Vadstena, Sweden (46.143.12229).

Verona: Summer opera reverberates round the splendid Roman arena: Zeffirelli's *Carmen* alongside *Aida*, *Macbeth*, Rossini's *Barber of Seville* plus Prokofiev's ballet *Antony and Cleopatra*.

July 3-Sept 1: Ente Lirico Arena di Verona, Piazza Bra 28, I-37100 Verona, Italy (39.45.590109).

AUGUST

Helsinki: A cocktail of the arts with a youthful spirit. Concerts, club evenings and movies in the festival tent.

Aug 18-Sept 1: Helsinki Festival, Rauhankatu 7 E, FIN-00170 Helsinki, Finland (358.0.1354522).

Lorient: Celts amass in Brittany for the formidable Festival Interceltique: bagpipes, bombards, big folk rockers, filmmakers. The focus is on Ireland.

Aug 2-11: Festival Interceltique, 2 rue Paul-Bert, 56100 Lorient, France (33.97.212429).

Lucerne: Late summer in Switzerland with a concert a day, or two, or even three. From the New York Philharmonic to the Paris-based Les Arts Florissants.

Aug 17-Sept 11: Internationale Musikfestwochen Luzern, Postfach, CH-6002 Luzern, Switzerland (41.41.210362).

Pesaro Rossini: Rossini bequeathed his entire fortune to the town council in Pesaro where he was born. The place now revives his operas and music to international applause, often staging lesser-known works and uniting performers with the musicalological experts. This year *Riccardo e Zoraida*, *L'occasione fa il ladro*, and the comic melodrama *Motilde di Shabran*.

Aug 10-24: Rossini Opera Festival, Via Rossini, 37, I-61100 Pesaro, Italy (39.721.3473).

Utrecht Early Music: Medieval and baroque musicians invade Utrecht, milling between the canals and cafés. The Gabrieli Consort, the King's Nyse. Steve Reich offers a premiere based on old sounds.

Aug 30-Sept 8: Holland Festival of Early Music Utrecht, Postfach 734, NL-3500 AS Utrecht, Netherlands (31.30.2362236).

SEPTEMBER

Aarhus: Scandinavia's major multi-arts spree. There is a jazz festival in early July too.

Sept 7-15: Aarhus Festival, Officersbygningen, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark (45.89318270).

Salzburg: Outstanding music surrounded by elegant Baroque architecture. Masses of opera including Schoenberg's *Moses and Aron* from Pierre Boulez and Peter Stein who also directs *The Cherry Orchard*. Top orchestras under Solti, Mehta and more.

July 20-Aug 31: Salzburger Festspiele, Postfach 140, A-5010 Salzburg, Austria (43.662.8045).

Berlin: A major event for classical music fans. Berlin's fine orchestras are joined by Andreas Schmidt, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Gunter Wand. Star recitals and chamber ensembles.

Sept 2-30: Berliner Festspiele, GmbH, Postfach 301648, D-10748 Berlin, Germany (49.30.25489-250).

Biarritz: Every autumn this French resort is swamped in Latin America culture to coincide with the glittering film season. This year there are literary conversations with Carlos Fuentes, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, as well as exhibitions, music, cabaret. Surf the arts.

Sept 26-Oct 6: Office du tourisme, Square d'Allee, 64200 Biarritz, France (33.59.237300).

Brno: Czech orchestras and other European musicians meet for the Moravian Autumn season. Two weekend concerts in castles. Before that the Easter Festival of Sacred Music (until April 14).

Sept 26-Oct 12: Brno International Music Festival, Ars/Koncert, Komenského nám. 8, 60200 Brno, Czech Republic (42.5.42215116).

Eisenstadt: Amid the vineyards, Haydn is celebrated in Esterházy Palace and the churches of Eisenstadt where he once lived. The Austro-Hungarian Haydn Orchestra is at the heart of the festival. A chance to see *Philemon and Baucis* staged with actors and marionettes, Trevor Pinnock wielding the baton.

Sept 5-15: Schloss Esterházy, A-7000 Eisenstadt, Austria (43.2682.618660).

Linz Brucknerfest: The Austrian maestro's music is aired alongside Beethoven, Haydn, Eder and others.

Sept 7-30: Linzer Veranstaltungsgesellschaft (LIVA), Brucknerhaus, Postfach 57, A-4010 Linz, Austria (43.732.7612).

Mondsee: Founded by Andreas Schiff, this top-notch chamber music festival in the lakeside village of Mondsee celebrates Mendelssohn and the Second Viennese School. Concerts are in the restored Theatresaal amid the monastic buildings.

THE TIMES

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Scotland mark McCoist milestone

McAllister hungry to make amends against Australia

By Kevin McCarr

GARY McALLISTER was munching on chocolate chip cookies in his hotel room as the Scotland football squad whistled away the time before the international with Australia at Hampden Park tonight. Finding a sweet taste in his mouth was probably a relief after the Coca-Cola Cup final on Sunday, in which Aston Villa shamed his Leeds United team while beating them 3-0.

The biscuits were being fed to him by Ally McCoist, who will, purely for this evening, relieve him of the Scotland captaincy. The honour marks the occasion of McCoist's fifth cap, although McAllister joked that only the bribe of cookies persuaded him to agree to it. In other respects, McAllister has no intention of standing aside.

From a selfish viewpoint, I am not suffering as much as the rest of the team because I am out of Leeds," he said. "I

am with a fresh group so there is not much cause to mope. We fancied our chances on Sunday, even though Villa were favourites, but we did not play at all.

"However, I have never been one to look back, on success or failure. There are no mental scars. With Leeds, I want us to play well and end the season in style. With Scotland, in the European championship finals, there is plenty to look forward to."

In a squad reduced by the withdrawal of five players, McAllister constitutes a point of continuity. McCoist, too, is experienced, but, while the fifth appearance will see his portrait hung in the Scottish Football Association's hall of fame, he must take care that the milestone does not also prove a headstone.

At 33, he can no longer be certain of a place in the Rangers team, and his inter-

national career could face its demise if his performance against Australia is unconvincing. He will be assisted in his work tonight by John Spencer, now with Chelsea but once a colleague at Ibrox. Although Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, suggested that there would be a rapport between the two men, Spencer was unsure of its basis. "I think the understanding must be off the pitch," he said. "Being in the reserves with Rangers, I was more of a fan of McCoist than a team-mate. I cleaned that mug's boots ten years ago and now he's leading me out for Scotland."

Spencer is appreciative, but not awe-struck. Brown has attempted to piece together a world team. With so many absentees, he cannot field the side that he will hope to deploy in the European championship in England this summer, but the players whom he has chosen are still well-versed in international football.

John Collins keeps his place despite losing form and being dropped by Celtic as speculation increases that he could soon be sold to Everton. Brown is convinced that Collins, a midfield player, the only person to have played in all ten of Scotland's Euro 96 qualifiers, remains dependable in this context. "You would put money on him performing for us," Brown said.

There are, by contrast, no guarantees at all where another Celtic player is concerned. With Colin Calderwood, of Tottenham Hotspur, and Alan McLaren, of Rangers, missing, Brian O'Neill makes his debut against Australia. O'Neill, 23, a central defender, suffered a serious knee injury last May.

He is still completing his recovery and, with full fitness and form yet to be found, Celtic have not played him in the past two weeks. O'Neill, however, has the rare talent, for a Scot, of building play from the back and his sheer suitability for international football has persuaded Brown to select him.

The greater demands, however, lie on other shoulders this evening and McAllister, in particular, will have every incentive to snipe shots on target. The Australia goalkeeper is Mark Bosnich, of Aston Villa.

SCOTLAND (4-4-2): J. Leighton (Hibernian) — G. Burley (Glasgow), C. Hendry (Blackburn), D. McCallum (Blackburn), T. Boyd (Celtic) — W. McInnes (Blackburn), P. McStay (Celtic), G. McAllister (Leeds), J. Collins (Celtic) — A. McCoist (Rangers), J. Spencer (Chelsea).



Given, right, receives the benefit of Pat Bonner's experience. Photograph: Tom Horan

McCarthy makes his mark

FROM PETER BALL IN DUBLIN

TEAMS

MICK MCCARTHY'S career as Ireland football manager began yesterday as Jack Charlton's had ended — in a Dublin bar. There, the similarities ended. Charlton said his farewells in the plush surroundings of his own pub in the city centre; McCarthy announced his team for the match against Russia at Lansdowne Road this evening in the snug of McDowell's, in the workaday suburb of Inchicore.

McCarthy held his press conference there after being forced to move training from a saturated Lansdowne Road. Instead, the players trained in the more basic surroundings of Richmond Park, the home of St Patrick's Athletic, the League of Ireland leaders, beside the banks of the River Camac.

Even the training showed that a new era was underway. Paul McGrath, back on the ground where he began his career, put in a full morning, and the training itself included games of "keep ball" and an emphasis on passing, a radical departure from the Charlton approach.

The team, too, is revolutionary. McCarthy is following the season's trend in England and employing a three-man central defence, with McAteer

Irish public — 45,000 tickets had been sold yesterday. However, although the passing of Nikiforov and Onopko and the pace of Kanchelskis and Tsimbalari will provide attractive opposition, most interest is centred on McCarthy's start.

With Keane and Townsend giving solid purpose to midfield, and a system geared to the talents available, there is optimism that a new beginning is underway. The selection of Given was almost inevitable once Alan Kelly dropped out. The choice of Kennedy was more surprising. "He's playing in midfield, but he's expected to get involved with the front two," McCarthy said. "His role is to get on the ball and be creative, a bit like Steve McManaman at Liverpool."

The voice of confidence comes at a good time for Kennedy. He won his three caps after starting the week in the under-21 squad. There is also a fourth cap for Mark Kennedy, like Given, 19, who was moved up from the under-21 squad only yesterday. With Oleg Romanitsyn, the Russia coach, able to call on all his overseas players, it promises to be a fascinating experiment, and one that has caught the imagination of the

club positions as wing backs. McGrath and Staunton, who have played in the system for Aston Villa, will be joined, at the heart of the defence, by Alan Kernaghan in the absence of Phil Babb.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
N/A-Off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-Ireland
International matches
England v Bulgaria
(at Wembley, 8.00)
Northern Ireland v Norway
(at Windsor Park, Belfast)
Ireland v Russia
(at Lansdowne Road, Dublin)
Scotland v Australia
(at Hampden Park, 8.00)
Endeligh Insurance League
First division
Portsmouth v Port Vale (7.45)
Third division
Hereford v Lincoln
Vauxhall Conference
Gateshead v Altrincham (7.45)
SEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division
Newport AFC v Nuneaton (7.45);
Bristol v Cannock City; Midlands division
Solihull v Pegasus Rangers; Southern division
Pole v Nuneaton (7.45)
KCS LEAGUE (all 7.45) Second division
Collier Row v Hermal; Hemel Hempstead Third division
Hemel Hempstead v Hemel Hempstead
League Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Boreham United v Lark
AVON HURRICANE COMBINATION: First division
Bristol Rovers v Watford; Charlton v Ipswich (7.0); Oxford Utd v Norwich; Southampton v Luton (at Meadow Road);
Swindon v Millwall (2.0); Tottenham v Brighton (at St Albans FC); Crystal Palace v Arsenal (at Dulwich Hamlet FC, 7.0);
Second division: Bath v Cardiff; Bournemouth v Cheltenham
PONTIUS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division (7.0) Nottingham Forest v Derby County; Oldham v Blackpool; Tranmere v Notts County; West Bromwich v Sheffield Wednesday; Second division: Barnsley v Aston Villa (7.0); Burnley v Mansfield (7.15); Huddersfield v Blackpool (7.0); Hull v York (7.0); Preston v Sunderland (7.0); Rotherham v Luton (7.0)
LEAGUE OF WALES: Portsmouth v Llanfair (7.45) Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Carmarthen v Connah's Quay (7.45)
NORTHERN COUNTRIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hibernian v Celtic; President's Cup: Semi-final: Donny v Brigg Town; League Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Hibernian v Celtic

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Brolin and Yeboah seem likely to move from Leeds

By David Maddock

SEVERAL candidates for the post of coach to the England national football team have turned down the job because of the stress that goes with the territory. Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, presumably, is not one of them.

Not only is he under intense pressure from the club's supporters, but also he learnt last night that he is almost certain to lose his two most expensive players at the end of the season, if not before. Enduring the odd "turnip" headline might seem a positive picnic by comparison.

Despite the growing clamour from large sections of the Elland Road crowd for Wilkinson to depart in the wake of defeat in the Coca-Cola Cup final on Sunday, he yesterday received backing from Leslie Silver, the chairman. Silver sees no reason why Wilkinson should not remain in control next season. If that is the case, then Wilkinson will have to manage without Tomas Brodin and, almost certainly, Anthony Yeboah.

Brodin wants to leave, four months after his £4.5 million transfer from Parma. "I think the time has come for me to find another club," he said before flying to Stockholm for talks with his agent, Yeboah, the exciting Ghana international who is the club's top scorer with 19 goals, also flew out of the country yesterday, en route to Brazil for an international date.

Joachim Leuke, his agent, admitted that Yeboah was now considering strongly the possibility of a move. "Leeds are a nothing club at the moment and Tony is very unhappy with what is a very bad situation — it is a real problem that he will not be in Europe next season," he said.

Francis Lee, the Manchester City chairman, expressed concern yesterday about reports linking Georgios Kinkladze, his Georgia international, with continental clubs. "I am convinced these rumours are being put about by one of our Premiership rivals," Lee said. "They want to make Kinkladze unsettled in the hope that they can sign him."

Britain take control with late flurry

THE Great Britain women's hockey team swept to an 8-2 victory over France at Bisham Abbey yesterday as they continued their build-up to the Olympic Games (Alix Ramsay writes). However, despite fielding a stronger side than England put out to beat France 2-0 on Sunday, Britain took a long time to wear down a determined France defence.

The deadlock was broken after 15 minutes when Sixsmith forced the ball home, but Picard equalised five minutes before the break. Atkins put Britain back in the lead in the second half only for France to draw level again through Picard. As France tired, Britain took control with goals from McDonald (2), Fraser (2), Simpson and Robertson.

Morgan shines
Snooker: Alan McManus, who ended 17 months without a tournament win by lifting the Thailand Open ten days ago, was surprisingly beaten 6-4 by Darren Morgan in the first round of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at Goffs, Co Kildare, yesterday.

McManus won the first frame, but was never ahead again as Morgan stole the second on the black after trailing 68-11 and accounted for the third with a break of 101. Morgan took the fifth and sixth frames with late runs of 67 and 49 and rounded off his best performance of the season with breaks of 83 and 86.

Cook appointed

Football: Mitch Cook, 34, was last night appointed director of coaching at Scarborough. Cook replaces Ray McIlroy, who resigned on Monday. McIlroy says on as general manager, under Cook, but Don O'Riordan has been released from coaching duties.

Eton excel

Rackets: Eton crowned a fine season by taking the first and second pairs' senior doubles titles in the public schools championships, to add to the senior singles that they won in December. Neal Bailey, the singles champion, teamed up with Patrick Wigan to take the first pairs' title.

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BRIGHTON	165 852	OLDHAM	165 822
BRIGHTON	165 846	PORTSMOUTH	165 840
BRISTOL CITY	165 837	PORT VALE	165 841
BURNLEY	165 838	PRESTON	165 845
CARLISLE	165 854	QPR	165 823
CHARLTON	165 853	SHEFF WED	165 814
CHELSEA	165 806	SHEFF UTD	165 815
C. PALACE	165 834	SOUTHAMPTON	165 830
COVENTRY	165 817	SPURS	165 807
DERBY COUNTY	165 828	STOKE CITY	165 830
EVERTON	165 806	SUNDERLAND	165 837
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INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

8/11 ENGLAND 11/5 DRAW BULGARIA 10/3

Wembley, Kick-off 8.00pm, Live on Sky.

FIRST GOALSCORER

5/1 FERDINAND 12/1 KOSTADINOV

7/1 STOICHKOV 14/1 BEARDSLEY

10/1 GASCOIGNE 16/1 LEE

10/1 PLATT 20/1 BALAKOV

Other players on request.

CORRECT SCORE

5/1 ENGLAND 1-0 18/1 DRAW 2-2

12/1 ENGLAND 3-1 16/1 BULGARIA 2-0

11/2 DRAW 0-0 50/1 BULGARIA 3-1

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1 6-46 BAS OF TRACKS 38 (C) Bay 6-10, 5-10 D Daily (5) 1
2 5-52 READY TO DRAW (B) Bay 6-10, 5-10 D Daily (5) 2
3 4-52 CLOUSE (B) Bay 6-10, 5-10 D Daily (5) 3
4 D400 PERLUMPH 214 (A) Bay 6-10, 5-10 D Daily (5) 4
5 4-52 CLOUSE (B) Bay 6-10, 5-10 D Daily (5) 5
6 4-52 CLOUSE (B) Bay 6-10, 5-10 D Daily (5) 6
7 4-52 CLOUSE (B) Bay 6-10, 5-10 D Daily (5) 7
8 4-52 CLOUSE (B) Bay 6-10, 5-10 D Daily (5) 8
9 4-52 CLOUSE (B) Bay 6-10, 5-10 D Daily (5) 9
10 4-52 CLOUSE (B) Bay 6-10, 5-10 D Daily (5) 10

5-4 CLOUSE, 4-1 Bay of Trade, 5-1 Ready To Draw, 5-1 Telegraph, 10-1 Person Place

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSERS J Garden, 7 winners from 21 races, 33.3% S Williams, 5 from 23, 21.7% M Graham, 8 from 40, 20.0% M Red, 6 from 30, 20.0%, D Murphy-Smith, 12 from 64, 18.8%, R O'Sullivan, 48 from 252, 19.0%.

Lethargy, laughter and lightning, all right?

As dithered as I am to symbolic unity in an evening's television, I was naturally chuffed to bits when last night culminated in ITV's unmissable *Savage Skies*. It concerned tornadoes in America, you see people-stood and watched helplessly while churning clouds advanced towards them, a dark ambience sucking and destroying, its vortex whipping with winds of 200 miles an hour. As one tornado twisted through a geranium greenhouse in Wichita, the funnel of mad air turned visibly pink. So what is the symbolic link with such programmes as *And the Beat Goes On?* Well, you can see it coming, that's what.

And the Beat Goes On (Channel 4) has been unkindly named. I feel the title suggests a tedious, but the most unfortunate thing about this peculiarly lifeless period *Brookside* is the complete lack of action and surprise. Bored by the

current goings-on, you scan the horizon for the next event, and then monitor its slow but inevitable advance, sometimes consulting your watch. After two weeks - which we should remember equals two hours of a viewer's life for ever lost - no scene has actually required dialogue to put it across. Reduced, silently or in Portuguese, the action would be equally comprehensible. Christine, raven-haired middle-class English student - has at last discovered that Lawrence's lover Jack is not truly working-class, but only punting on an act for purposes of romantic advancement. Gosh, is this really true? Well, I'll go in the foot of our stairs.

After last week's review, in which I stated with unfounded confidence that the street of terraced houses was a set borrowed from Dennis Potter's *Lipstick on Your Collar*, a spokesman from Mersey TV phoned up to object:

this was a real street over which much sort of care has been taken. I suppose, to remind us of authentic 1960s phraseology - "Are you all right?" "No, he's half left" - but it doesn't add up to much. The real tragedy is that *And the Beat* has none of the vitality, the sheer style of real 1960s film-making. Our forgettable hero, Ritchie, is a puddling on legs who occasionally paws at the poor hand life has dealt him, and reminds us of badly functions such as masturbation. Jenny Apter is the best thing in it, and all credit to her. She is heing a lonely row.

Symptomatic of the malaise of *And the Beat* is that whenever attention turns to Mr Spencer's factory, there is no work going on. People gossip in pairs, or lean over banisters, as though about to burst into song. There is no noise of production, although



Lynne Truss

Mr Spencer (Stephen Moore) looks quite satisfied when he watches the shopfloor from his office window. Full employment probably has something to do with this. We must blame Supermac.

How different is the leisure centre in *The Brittas Empire* (BBC1). And how unfair of the Almighty that the writers of *Brittas* can have eight distinct zingy ideas for a single half-hour

episode. While *And the Beat* takes a borrowed one with weak classic, and stretches it over eight hours, so that you can see through it to the tubes in the telly. Forcibly requires endless invention, and in *The Brittas Empire*, yes, you can see things coming, but that's the point: they know you can. Each plot line last night - a Casanova doppelgänger for Mr Brittas; a miscombed marketing drive; Colin's herbal medicine; the deputisation from the Church of Charnonog; a bear loose in the carpark - was obviously leading somewhere, but it was impossible to predict exactly where.

The Brittas Empire is on top form. Each week it hits the ground running. Harriet Thorpe as ditsy receptionist Carole is an utter joy, and Chris Barrie was right to stick with Gordon Brittas - a man who presents alibis such as "I was at home emptying my turn-ups". "Hold on, didn't I ban you for

taking too long to get changed?" he snapped at a feeble old age pensioner who had come to the leisure centre hoping for a swim. "Out, out," he commanded in a sympathetic "AW" (from the audience), and shooed her back outside.

Back with *Savage Skies*, we had lightning as well as tornadoes - next week, hurricanes! Oh yes, in the search for energy on the box, one need look no further than this. Sometimes I spare a thought for Ian Holm, however, as he solemnly tells the mortality statistics in that wonderful - well, tolling manner of his. "In just 45 minutes, it caused 30 million dollars worth of damage." Forget those ten-year-olds in America who have seen a zillion murders by the age of ten. Think how many people's deaths Ian Holm must have recounted in his excellent voice-over career, doing wars and floods and genocides. I

just hope he is a cheerful fellow in his private life.

Last night's *Savage Skies* was, like *Carla*, in three parts. First lightning, then people running away from tornadoes, and then (curiously) people running towards them. Some of these storm chasers had legitimate business for driving their little cars towards thunderheads; others less so. They all looked mad to me. One photographer who took pictures of lightning spent night after night capturing light-streaks on celluloid, and yelling with every flash: "All right! All right! All right!" Occasionally he exclaimed "Woot!" but then he resumed "All RIGHT! All right!" I would not want to be this man, but I envy him one thing: he knows exactly what his last utterance on earth will be. Night after night, he sees it coming. And on his gravestone they will carve the words "He said it was all right".

REVIEW

CHOICE

Hearts of Gold (BBC1, 8.40pm)

The content, as always, is fine and admirable. Ordinary people who have displayed extraordinary courage deserve to be on television. The reservation is whether this schmaltzy showbusiness format is the right way to do it. Kicking off the new series are Alan Sharpe and John Piff, the British rally drivers who risked their own lives to rescue three people from a blazing petrol station in Belgium. Their bravery was truly heroic, but they are modest men and clearly upset by the fuss. Suddenly confronting them with the three survivors releases emotions that might better be reserved for a more private occasion. Thankfully less mawkish are salutes to a woman who raises funds for a little-publicised disease and an off-duty nurse who saved a young road accident victim.

Travelog (Channel 4, 8.30pm)

Pete McCarthy rounds off the current series by visiting Laos. If he is less jocular than usual, one of the poorest countries in the world is not the best venue to make jokes about. Nor is it tasteful to be flippant about a country on which the United States has dropped more bombs during the Vietnam conflict than it dropped in the whole of the Second World War. McCarthy does not even try. On the contrary, he says it is hard not to feel ashamed. But this is no party political broadcast. McCarthy has done his homework on Laotian history and unravels an intriguing cultural mix of French colonialism, Buddhism, Marxism and Pepsi Cola. His nightmare is that a traditional and unsullied society will go the same tasteless way as neighbouring Thailand.

Modern Times: Beautiful Men (BBC2, 9.00pm)

The Miss World contest may have been politically incorrect but at the peak of its popularity 27 million people watched it. But the BBC, and then ITV, decided the show was degrading to women. The Miss World organisers, Eric and Julia Morley, were undaunted. Last year they started a beauty contest for men. Helena Apple's skitish film follows some of the lads hoping to become Mr UK and, perhaps, Mr World. The heats take place in nightclubs before audiences of screaming girls. Asked about his hobbies, Damon, a 24-year-old builder replies: "Drinking, mainly." Miss World veterans, such as compère Judith Chalmers and judge Michael Winner, are invited to describe the man of the 1990s. Forth, Phil, voted Mr Essex, and Andy, alias Mr Coventry, must hope for other spin-offs.

A Man's World: The Father (BBC2, 9.30pm)

In the first half of the 20th century the man's role was to go out to work leaving his wife to bring up the children. Fathers who changed nappies or pushed prams would be accused of being hen-pecked and of surrendering some of their manliness. That, at least, was the norm but it was often challenged. As well as other moments of tenderness, a Welshman remembers singing his small daughter to sleep to the tune of "The Red Flag". After the war, as one of those splendidly stilled Ministry of Information films shows, the Government actually promoted the idea of fatherhood classes. When children starting growing up, it was the father's job to prepare them for the harsh world outside. Working-class children were taught to be streetwise, while middle-class fathers sent their sons to boarding schools to toughen them up.

Peter Warlock

CHOICE

6.00pm GMTV (9008224)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (2915534)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (4263063)

10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (8417937)

10.35 This Morning, Magazine (9843047)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (2887474)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (7664114)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (7489055) 1.25 Coronation Street (s) (Teletext) (7271076)

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4.15 Nite Bites 4 (8672987)

4.30 The Time... the Place (s) (88883)

5.00 Cover Story (s) (s) (64886)

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CHOICE

6.00pm GMTV (9008224)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (2915534)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (4263063)

10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (8417937)

10.35 This Morning, Magazine (9843047)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (2887474)

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RACING 45

AMERICAN WONDER
HORSE MEETS HIS
DATE WITH DESTINY

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 27 1996

Venables resists clamour for Fowler but gives Ince midfield role

Pride the spur for Ferdinand

By ROE HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IF EVER pride could stir the deeds of a sportsman, it should inspire Les Ferdinand at Wembley Stadium tonight. Having begun the week in the embrace of Pelé, receiving the vote of his fellow professionals as England's footballer of the year, Ferdinand then hit a period of quiet desperation, wondering if the clamour for Robbie Fowler, the irresistible apprentice, would deny him his place in the national side.

It has not. Fowler, 20, is a substitute. Alan Shearer is out with a niggling groin strain, and so, in the words of Terry Venables, the England coach, Ferdinand has been given his chance "to be the main threat" to a Bulgaria side that he rates as the most potent attacking force in the forthcoming European championship.

There are four changes from the last England side, which drew with Portugal in Decem-

ber. Tony Adams, the captain then, is injured, so his armband will be worn by Stuart Pearce, at 33 proving that perseverance is sometimes all on the sporting front. In place of Adams, Gareth Southgate, having been converted from midfield to centre back by Aston Villa, proves that Venables is looking for versatility and intelligence in his ranks. In the midfield, joining Paul Gascoigne as the fulcrum of the team, Paul Ince has his first chance in a year to persuade Venables that he has learnt discipline, both in the personal sense and in terms of holding his position, as the side's anchor. Ince, of Internazionale, is getting to grips with Italian football, despite being sent off against Udinese last Sunday.

With Gascoigne told publicly by Venables that it is time that he paced his game, stopped "chasing the ball" and began using himself to best effect for the team, and Ince instructed to be responsible in harness with him, the wings, that have troubled England for so long, are entrusted to Steve Stone, on the right, and Steve McManaman. Some maintain that McManaman is at his best for Liverpool in a free role. Both the player and the coach were at pains yesterday to explain that McManaman will start



Ince, who has been recalled to the England team against Bulgaria tonight, lets fly with a volley in training yesterday. Photograph: Steve Morton

wide on the left, with scope to come infield, to operate effectively in an old-fashioned inside left position. "He's got that licence," Venables said. "If he finds he's getting joy wide out on the left, he should stay there to give the team width, but really I'm asking nothing different to the way he's played recently for Liverpool."

Stone, though he privately hankers for a role infield as well, will do as he has previously done for England to spectacular effect, patrol up and down the right with bulldog tenacity. There may be limitations to Stone's technique, but none at all in terms of his heart and commitment, and, though Venables stresses that the game tonight is preparation for Euro 96, rather than an all-important in itself, one can feel around the England camp at Bisham Abbey a rising expectation, a tightening of the competitive morale. The tournament is 11 weeks away, during which time England have just five matches to prepare, and every game where a man is given the shirt is a chance to keep someone else out of contention.

Teddy Sheringham returns to the role linking the midfield and the main striker, in preference to Nick Barmby. With his speed of thought rather than quick movement, Sheringham is becoming the pivotal choice in that vital position.

"It's important for everyone," Ince said yesterday, "important for English football as a whole because of what is coming in the summer. From outside the country, now that I am playing in Italy, I know that technically there are people a lot better than us, but sometimes, the football over there can be a

TEAMS
ENGLAND (4-4-1-1): D Seaman (Aston); G Neville (Manchester Utd), S Hooton (Newcastle Utd), G Southgate (Aston Villa), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), P Gascoigne (Liverpool), P Ince (Internazionale), S McManaman (Liverpool), E Sheringham (Tottenham Hotspur), L Ferdinand (Newcastle Utd), substitute R Fowler (Liverpool); remainder to be announced.
BULGARIA (3-5-2): S Mihailov (Reading), E Karamirski (Olympique), P Kuchukov (Hamburg), T Vanev (Rapid Vienna), E Kostadinov (Bayer Munich), I Lechkov (Hamburg), Z Lichkov (Ludogorets), I Kostinov (Sporting Lisbon), K Isakov (VfB Stuttgart), L Penov (Mladika Medica), H Stokichov (Puma).



Ferdinand: confidence

little slow. We've got great assets, and this is our chance to show them as a team."

It is a chance against illustrious opposition. Provided that Bulgaria, the World Cup semi-finalists, are motivated tonight, they will bring technique in the extreme, and sharp, rapacious counter-attacking skills.

Hristo Stoichkov, their captain and catalyst, is like a volcano; one can never be sure whether he will erupt. He possesses the most breathtaking of left-foot skills, yet the potential for disgrace; there is poison in him when aroused, yet so much beauty in the

talent that not only he, but also the likes of Emil Kostadinov and Jordan Lechkov, possess.

Ferdinand has the task of trying to upstage them. When he received the plaudits of the Professional Footballers' Association in London on Sunday night, when he hugged Pelé, the greatest player in the game's history, one could see self-esteem rise within him. He has such physical power, the potency that Venables talks about, but also a tendency to under-perform, to become almost shy and introverted and not to utilise his talents fully. Newcastle United have begun to change that, to instil confidence.

In place of Shearer, whose past 18 months and ten games without a goal for England must invite a challenge from someone, Ferdinand has become the right man at the right time, but, even now, he will look over his shoulder, if he is not scoring, and see Fowler, that irrepressible youth.

One senses that all the Artful Dodger of Liverpool is waiting for is half a chance to pick someone else's pocket.

England begin search for coach to replace Illingworth

By SIMON WILDE

WHEN he left Lord's yesterday, M. J. K. Smith, the man who would be chairman of England's cricket selectors had not Raymond Illingworth beaten him to the post two years ago, let down his car window to allow a lone photographer to take his picture.

It appeared a vainglorious act, but Smith, who had just come out of a meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) to decide how the England team should be managed, after another winter of woe, had reason to feel satisfied with his afternoon's work.

Smith may have lost his aggressive battle to remove Illingworth as chairman of selectors, but he and Warwickshire, his county, who are in the vanguard of calls for progressive leadership, could yet win the war.

It was decided at Lord's that Illingworth and his selection panel will work until September, when they will choose the winter touring parties, and then be replaced by a new management team, whose structure will be determined by a working party being set up by David Acland. This is what the progressives wanted.

One of the selectors will be a new appointee, a coach to the England team who effectively succeeds to the position of manager which Illingworth resigned at the weekend, as revealed by *The Times* yesterday. The favourites for the position are David Lloyd, of Lancashire, and John Emburey, who recently signed a four-year contract to coach Northamptonshire.

The problem for any candidate is that he may be wanted by England for the next six months, but not necessarily thereafter, and to take this chance he might have to forfeit a lucrative county career. This is one of the problems facing the TCCB's ten-man executive committee, chaired by Dennis Silk, which discussed a range of potential candidates yesterday and will be talking to some of them shortly.

Time is of the essence, as the TCCB would like selectors in place to choose players for the England A v The Rest fixture at Chelmsford starting on April 20. England's next match is the first one-day

international against India, at the Oval on May 23.

The chosen coach will have 12 matches to make his mark with England — three one-day internationals and three Test matches against both India and Pakistan.

Lloyd remains the clear favourite. Most important, he has the support of Michael Atherton, the England captain since 1993, with whom he has worked well at Lancashire. Nor does he have a contract as restrictive as Emburey's. Lloyd made the usual noises yesterday of a man being touted for a big promotion, and certainly did not rule himself out.

The addition of a coach means that the selection panel will now comprise five members: the chairman (Illingworth), the coach, the captain



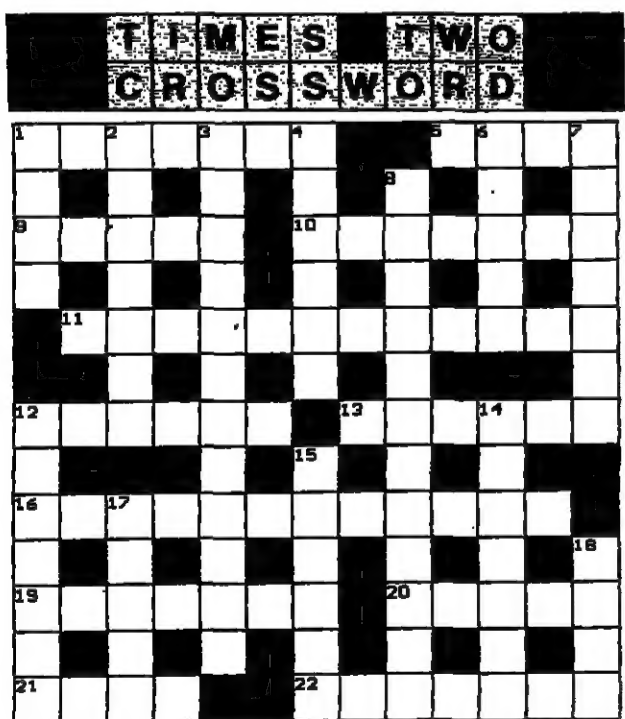
Lloyd: leading candidate

(who will presumably remain Atherton) and two elected selectors.

It is already certain that the names of David Graveney and Fred Titmus, who occupied these positions last summer, will be joined by at least one forward-thinking candidate, who will be put up by the progressives.

"The profile being given to the new coach is excellent news," Paul Sheldon, the chief executive of Surrey, who supported Warwickshire's attempted ousting of Illingworth last week, said yesterday.

"The way the board has arranged things leaves open the possibilities of big changes in September. I'm sure David Acland will canvass opinions widely and if he does we will abide by his findings."



No 740

- ACROSS**
- Show with songs (7)
 - Get (the idea): bit of tree (4)
 - Pierre and Marie — chemists (5)
 - Frozen sweet, eaten from wrapper (4-3)
 - Head waiter (6,6)
 - Quiet and modest (6)
 - Welsh town, has Beacons (6)
 - Notes, not coins (7,5)
 - Drunkenly sentimental (7)
 - Enthusiasm (5)
 - Twilight (4)
 - Fr. scholastic, loved Heloise (7)

- SOLUTION TO NO 739**
- ACROSS: 1 Omega; 8 Bar none; 9 Leg-pull; 10 Burst; 11 Troy; 12 Mystique; 15 Corniche; 16 Waxy; 19 Newel; 21 Kingdom; 22 Toehold; 23 Agree.

- DOWN:** 1 Job lot; 2 Peignoir; 3 Vague; 4 Probit; 5 Four; 6 Seethe; 8 Billy the Kid; 13 Quinary; 14 Kiljoy; 15 Canute; 17 Yomped; 18 Amaze; 20 Whet.

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 735

In association with **BRITISH MIDLAND**

- ACROSS: 4 Tepid; 7 Honolulu; 8 Vice; 9 Emporium; 10 Beadle; 13 Riquar; 14 Desist; 15 Flashy; 18 Barbican; 19 Tarn; 20 Uxorious; 21 Sinus.

- DOWN:** 1 Choice; 2 Unbend; 3 Fleecy; 4 Tutorial; 5 Perilous; 6 Donner; 11 Assyrian; 12 Luscious; 14 Debris; 15 Pinery; 16 Author; 17 Harass.

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is J Goldswain, Lytham, Lancashire.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is D G Donnison, Colchester, Essex. All flights subject to availability.

Foster's record pay day

MARK FOSTER, one of the Great Britain swimming team's best hopes for a gold medal at the Olympic Games this summer, broke the world 50 metres butterfly long-course record and picked up a £10,000 bonus at the Empire pool in Cardiff last night.

Foster, 25, who will swim the 50 metres freestyle in Atlanta, added the long-course butterfly best to his world short-course mark of 23.45sec. With James Hickman and Jamie Salter, his Olympic team-mates, to urge him on, Foster, who is based in the Cardiff, lowered the world record for one length from 24.27sec to 24.07sec.

"I am very pleased. I seemed to be over-revving a bit, but I had a lot of confidence," Foster said. "I felt better tonight than I did at the Olympic trials at the weekend, and I just wish I had been going for the world record in the 50-metre freestyle."

"This will give me a lot of confidence for the Olympics and I will definitely be going for gold in the 50 freestyle."

Foster's sponsors had put together a cash and car incentive package worth £10,000 for the record attempt.

Halifax borrow something blue for brave new world

Christopher Irvine on the teams setting the trend in rugby league

one of a minority of clubs without a nickname.

Highfield, the sport's perennial losers, reinvented themselves as the Prescot Panthers this week. The trend in the lower divisions has also been taken up by Huddersfield, Salford, Batley, Chorley, Doncaster, Hunslet, Swinton, Leigh and Barrow — the

The inspiration comes from the Chicago White Sox and Boston Red Sox. Not that there is much interest in baseball in Halifax, apart from those supporters who would raise a baseball bat to the people whose idea it was. Local opinion is divided between the name being the height of fashion and the height of absurdity. Rather than baseball caps and tops, most players wore club blazer and tie for the announcement.

"It will settle down and sink in with supporters," Steve Simms, the Blue Sox coach, said. "After a little while, it does get a bit catchy."

The opening Super League programme this weekend is a sign of changing times, with the Broncos (London) hoping to buck the Blue Sox, the Bulls (Bradford) to gore the Tigers (Castleford) and the Bears (Oldham) to maul Wigan —

Giants, Reds, Bulldogs, Chiefs, Dragons, Hawks, Lions, Centurions and Braves, respectively.

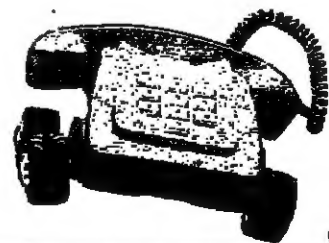
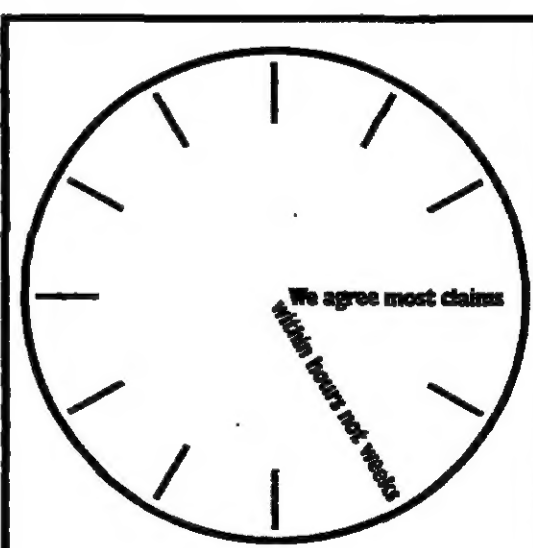
Keighley pioneered the American way with adoption of the Cougars' emblem five years ago. Crowds there have increased ten-fold. Clubs that

scoffed at Keighley's marketing play are now scrambling for exclusive use of a variety of animals and demonised creatures. All these were rejected by Halifax in settling on Blue Sox, the most radical of the new identities.

The anguished question of club mergers was one of the reasons. Nigel Wood, the Halifax chief executive, said: "Too few spectators are still being sought by too many Super League clubs. It doesn't take a wise man from China to work out four in West Yorkshire is an over-representation. To compete effectively and stand alone we had to do something positive to broaden our appeal."

"We could have gone for a macho and aggressive name, but the game itself is strong and hard enough without reinforcing traditional images and preconceptions."

To accommodate the new Blue Sox supporters that it hopes to attract, the club also announced a £5 million ground redevelopment. On match days, rugby league will be part of an overall entertainment package. Supporters carrying baseball bats, however, can expect to have them confiscated.



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